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On Victoria Avenue

One Room ||| Three Ways
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Being the Best Design Client You Can Be

48

Cover: Curtis Elmy and Trevor Ciona from Atmosphere Interior Design, story begins pg. 47. Photo: Heather Fritz

HOME Front



Photo: Adrienne Perrot

Hello to Fall

Fall always puts me in the gathering and harvesting mood. It's a precious few weeks we have to reap the bounty from our gardens, tidy up the yard, and still enjoy long evenings on the deck, maybe now with a light sweater tossed around the shoulders. Some people moan that fall is just that last inevitable blink before the snow comes, but it really should be savoured. If we think good thoughts, it might last until after Halloween!

After we harvest the tomatoes and tidy up outside, it's time to turn our attention to the inside. Our readers tell us they're always hungry for ideas on maximizing space. So in this issue, we bring you Small Spaces Made Practical (pg. 35). And what the heck is a hack, you may well ask? Find out (pg. 77). Or perhaps you need assistance on the decorating style side? Check out What is Your Design Style?, and How to Be a Good Design Client starting on page 48.

On page 19, One Room ||| Three Ways, we have three talented design consultants tackle a room in order to please a particular client. And just for fun, you can guess which consultant did what room at the end! A special thank you to Braid Flooring and to the three very talented designers who helped make this happen.

At Saskatoon HOME, we always like to take you inside unique homes in and around the city. In this issue, welcome to the Pink House on Victoria Avenue (pg. 10). I drive past this home all the

time and one day decided to knock on the door, and low and behold found a really interesting story just waiting to be told. We delve into its interesting and perhaps elusive origins, we meet its newest, creative owners, and we take a look back at how you could 'order' a new home.

We've gathered an array of other items we think you'll enjoy and find useful. To highlight just a few: check out a unique kitchen island, and read about all the possibilities for a feature wall project. Do your research on geothermal energy, and find out how Saskatoon is unique in our approach to residential development. Discover the origins of the weir. Get hungry as you read about Chef Luke Griffin's homemade creations, in his Elk Ridge Resort kitchen.

We love to hear what you think of our magazine and welcome suggestions for future articles. Or if you would like to read past issues we have them all waiting for you through our App available in the App Store, or online through our website: www.saskatoon-home.ca.

Until next time, embrace fall and keep a good attitude about the winter to come! We get to experience very distinct seasons here in Saskatoon, so let's enjoy each one!

AMANDA SOULODRE
OWNER & PUBLISHER

Suggestions? Comments? Questions? Want to see back issues of HOME? Visit www.saskatoon-home.ca

HOME

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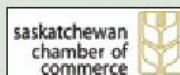
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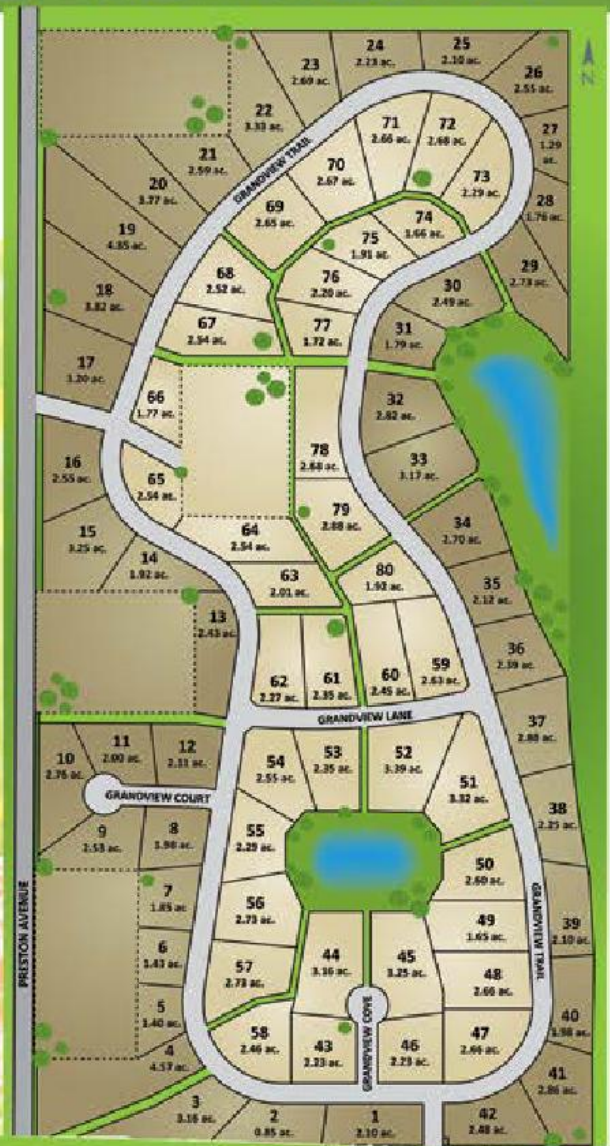
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Thank You To Our Fall Issue Reader Panel



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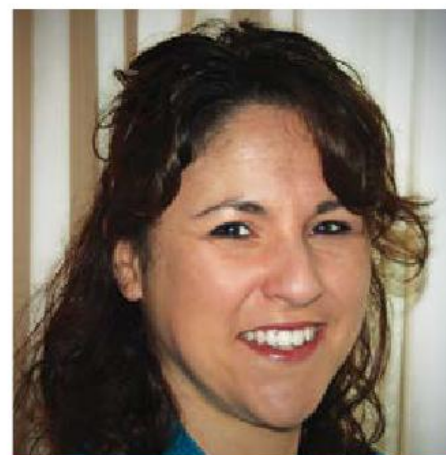
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INTERESTING STORIES, SELECTED BY INTERESTING PEOPLE

Saskatoon HOME is proud to present our Fall 2013 Reader Panel – people from Saskatoon who helped us select the stories for this issue.

We are dedicated to Saskatoon content. There are lots of great things to write about – but which subjects will most interest our readers? To help us make that decision, we first create a list of possible story ideas. We give them to our reader panel

for their individual feedback and ranking, then compile the results to determine our final story list.

You don't need any special skills to be on our panel, and the time required is minimal. The only qualification is your sincere opinion as a reader. Your single task will be to look at the story suggestions and rank them in order of your preference. 

If you would like more information on being on a future reader panel, email info@saskatoon-home.ca with the subject line 'Reader Panel'.

We look forward to your interest – and your opinion!



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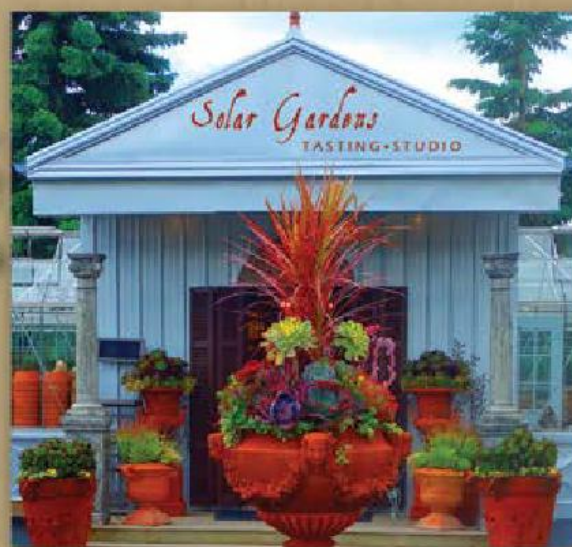
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300 CLUB

READY TO JOIN THE CLUB?



Do you want to make a difference in our community? Habitat for Humanity Saskatoon has launched a new campaign that will allow individuals to make a huge difference in the lives of local families. They call it the '300 Club.'

"Many people working together can have a huge impact" explains Graham Dickson, Resource Development Coordinator at Habitat Saskatoon. "We're looking for individuals who are willing to give \$25 a month. That's less than a dollar a day, or \$300 over a year. We only need 300 people to join the club and we'll have enough money to build a home for a local family."

Habitat builds homes for low-income families with young children. "These are

hard-working people who just can't quite get in to home ownership" says Dickson. "They're spending so much of their income on rent they just can't get a leg up, never mind invest in education, save for a down-payment, or even pay bills."

Habitat sells the homes they build to families with a no-interest mortgage. Monthly payments never exceed 30% of monthly income. It's a unique model that has proven successful since its inception in the 1970s.

Dickson points to some startling facts about the Saskatoon real estate market to underline the need for affordable housing. Vacancy rates are at 2% this year, which has led to substantial rent increases. Since 2004,

\$300 x 300 people = \$90,000, which is close to the average cost to build a home by Habitat for Humanity Saskatoon (this cost does not include the land - just the physical structure). The house can be built at such a minimal cost as many materials and labour are donated by businesses and volunteers throughout the city.

the average rental rate has more than doubled. The cost of buying a home in Saskatoon has also doubled since 2006. As Dickson puts it, "our unprecedented prosperity has created unprecedented need."

"This is an opportunity for people in Saskatoon to make an impact in our community" Dickson explains. "I think people are aware of the problem, but feel helpless to do anything about it. This is an easy way for individuals

to make a big difference in the lives of a local family. We're even inviting 300 Club members out on site to help build the home. It's a great opportunity."

Want to find out more?
Visit www.habitatsaskatoon.ca/donate/300-club or call the Habitat office at 306-343-7772. 

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THE PINK HOUSE ON VICTORIA AVENUE



JEFF O'BRIEN



HEATHER FRITZ

Home owners
Simone Clayton and Cam Forman.

What if you could go online and order your new house – pick out the layout and all the fixtures, the styles of doors and windows, and then have it delivered? A century ago you could, through the magic of the Eaton's catalogue.

A History - Eaton's Houses


This was the pioneer equivalent of buying online. You could buy just about anything out of the Eaton's catalogue, from farm equipment to children's toys. You simply checked off your order, mailed it in, then picked it up down at the railway station. Buying a house by mail was no different, albeit a bit trickier than ordering a sewing machine or a suit. For one thing, what they sent you was essentially a big pile of wood and some nails, so a certain amount of assembly was required.

How much assembly depended on from whom you were buying. Although we tend to refer to catalogue houses generally as "Eaton's houses," Eaton's wasn't the only game in town. Some companies, such as Aladdin (an American company which moved into Canada in 1908) sold kits with all the lumber pre-cut, marked and numbered, making assembly simply a matter of following the instruction book. "If you can swing a hammer," Aladdin claimed, "you can build a house." Eaton's, however, sent you a blueprint along with a carload of uncut lumber and the necessary millwork and hardware, meaning you needed a competent builder to put it all together.

Most catalogue houses were bought by customers on farms or in small towns. They


are rarer in the cities, where there were plenty of lumberyards and lots of builders to choose from. Out in the country, where options were more limited, Eaton's did a booming business. This doesn't mean there aren't catalogue houses in Saskatoon, but they can be hard to pick out.

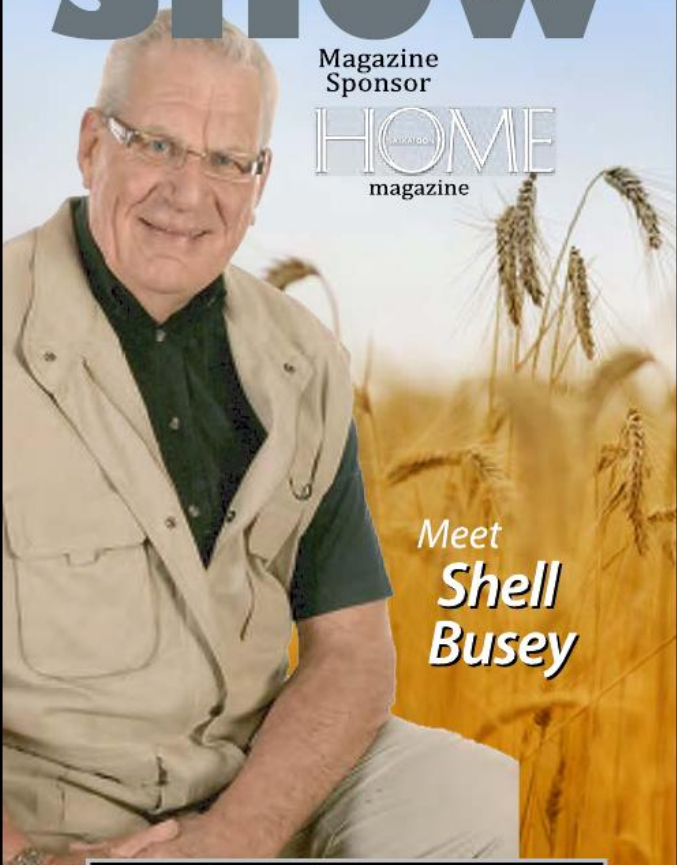
A customer buying an Eaton's home would choose from a list of house styles, then pick from among the various selections of doors, window, mouldings, stair rails and posts, flooring, wallboard and other requirements. Plumbing was extra, as was the "Red Hot" wood-and-coal-burning furnace. Eaton's bragged of the weather-tightness of its walls, which had two dead air spaces – an outer one between the studs, and an inner one, formed by inch-thick vertical strips nailed over the inner sheathing, on to which the lath and plaster were laid – making, so they claimed, "an exceptionally warm house in Winter and the coolest in Summer." In practice, Eaton's houses could be quite draughty. Luckily, the balloon-style construction, where studs extended the full height of the house without any interruption between floors, meant that it was easy to blow insulation into them later.

One advantage of an Eaton's home over the pre-cuts was that homeowners could more easily tweak the plans to their own preferences, with the result that the final product could be quite different from the picture in the catalogue. Eaton's would also create custom packages from sketches sent in by the buyer, which would not have appeared in any catalogue or plan book. 

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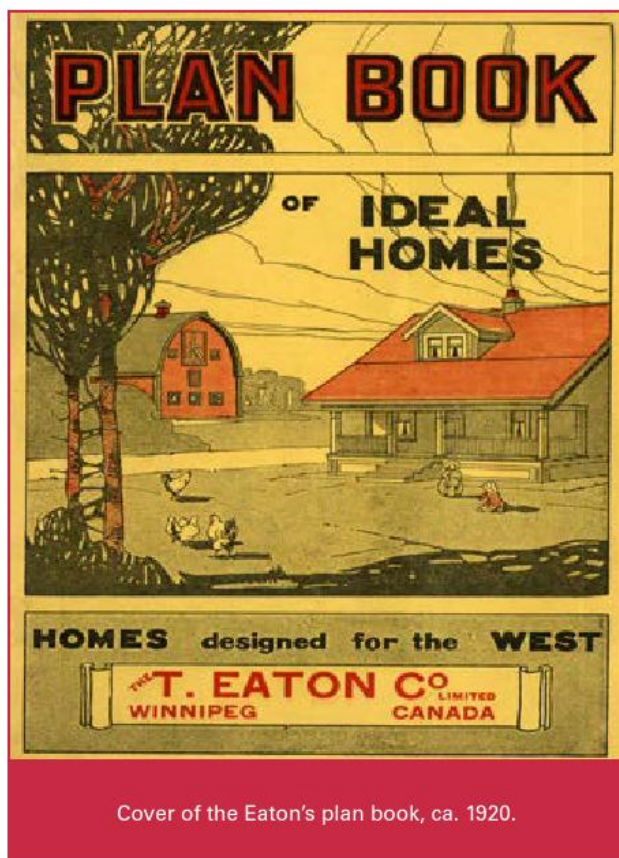


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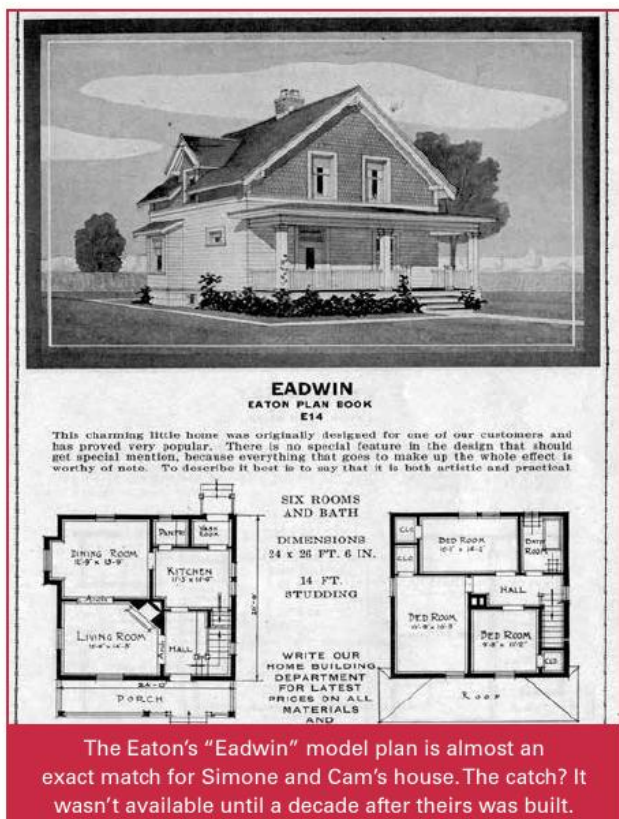
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Cover of the Eaton's plan book, ca. 1920.

Photo Courtesy: Image PM-87-1 Local History Room
- Saskatoon Public Library



The Eaton's "Eadwin" model plan is almost an exact match for Simone and Cam's house. The catch? It wasn't available until a decade after theirs was built.

Photo Courtesy: Image PM-87-1 Local History Room
- Saskatoon Public Library

Eaton's began selling catalogue houses in 1910. Unlike Aladdin, which sold across Canada and the US, and even to the UK, Eaton's only sold in the three prairie provinces. Its sales peaked in 1917-1918, before tapering off as the market became saturated. Eaton's got out of the business entirely after 1932.

(For more information about catalogue homes on the prairies, see the very excellent book Catalogue Houses: Eatons' and Others by Les Henry)

Back To Saskatoon - The Painted Lady

It's bright. It's bold. People slow down as they drive by, or loop around for another look. Sometimes they even knock on the door and ask if they can have their pictures taken in front of it. Someone once left a note in the mailbox thanking the owners for painting their house such a "bright, uplifting and inspiring colour." It is Simone Clayton and Cam Forman's "House of Many Colours" and it really catches your eye.

Built around 1910 during Saskatoon's pre-First World War real estate boom, the house at 916 Victoria Avenue (it was 918 before that, until they had it re-numbered) was originally one of a row of three identical houses, two of which still stand. An Eaton's catalogue house, according to the realtor who sold it to them, it first shows up in the 1910 city directory under the name of Robert G. Armstrong, an insurance inspector. He was followed by John Speers, of J. H. Speers and Co., who lived there during the First World War. A great many families came

and went over the years after that, including Albert and Fern Stratemeyer, who between them (he passed away in the 1960s) lived there for nearly a half century, from about 1936 until the early 1980s. In 2009, Simone and Cam became the latest owners.

The main floor is bright and airy. The living room, dining room and front entrance hall connect to each other through wide archways. There is a bow window in the dining room, and at some point a large opening was cut in the wall between it and the kitchen, adding to the feeling of spaciousness. Upstairs are three bedrooms (there is evidence that the two smaller ones were once connected) and a bathroom with a beautiful claw-foot tub. It's 1040 square feet if you include the verandah, which makes it a smaller house by today's standards. But with the light streaming in through the bow window and a cup of coffee steaming on the dining room table, it is a bright and friendly space in which to sit and discuss the history of houses in Western Canada.

As is to be expected, the house has undergone many changes over the years. Early photographs suggest that the front verandah was originally open. If so, it has long since been glassed-in. More recently, the doors and hardwood flooring have been re-finished, with new crown moulding on the main floor, and other changes. The kitchen cupboards appear to date from about the 1980s, and the curvy track lighting in the kitchen exudes a late '90s vibe. Downstairs, the original wood-and-coal-burning stove is long gone, and the

View of Nutana from the water tower at 11th and Broadway, ca 1910. The arrow marks present-day 916 Victoria Avenue.



Photo Courtesy: Image LH-3217-1 Local History Room – Saskatoon Public Library

basement itself – nowadays a combination storage area and computer room – is a far cry from the gloomy, dirt-floored root cellar it would have been in 1910. All in all, the house has been well looked after over the years, and maintains a clear connection with its historic roots.

But the new owners found the exterior to be a bit drab. “It was... pinkish,” Simone said. Probably the man at the paint store had called it “Dusty Rose” or something similar, but if

so, by the time Simone and Cam moved in, it had wilted considerably. Clearly, the house needed paint.

Originally, they went hunting for the kinds of colours that would have been popular in 1912. This turned out to be a disappointment. The palette favoured by our pioneer forebears appears to have tended towards white, beige and off-white, which wasn’t Cam and Simone’s style at all. “We knew we wanted three colours,” Simone said, discussing the quite remarkable colour

Simone and Cam turned to the daring colour combinations of San Francisco’s historic “Painted Ladies” as the inspiration for their colour scheme, as well as brightly painted buildings Cam had seen on his travels through Oregon.



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Cam and Simone, the happy homeowners of Saskatoon's Painted Lady.

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scheme they finally hit on, "and I absolutely knew I wanted a red door."

They were inspired by the "Painted Ladies" of San Francisco, a group of brightly-painted, multi-coloured, Edwardian- and Victorian-era houses. Cam had also once seen something much like it while wind-surfing in Oregon, and had painted his cabin at the lake in a similar style. So they had some experience with this kind of mixing and matching.

They ended up with five

colours: two pinks (one of which is nearly red), two purples, and a green. The door is indeed red (or rather, very dark pink), while the accents are green and hot pink. The scalloped shingles on the front gable end and dormers alternate between the pinks and the purple, and the scrollwork around the dormer windows are the same colour as the door.

The painting was done by a company called 3 Sisters Painting, who adopted the project enthusiastically and,



Even though walls were removed to open up the space, the interior retains its historic character.

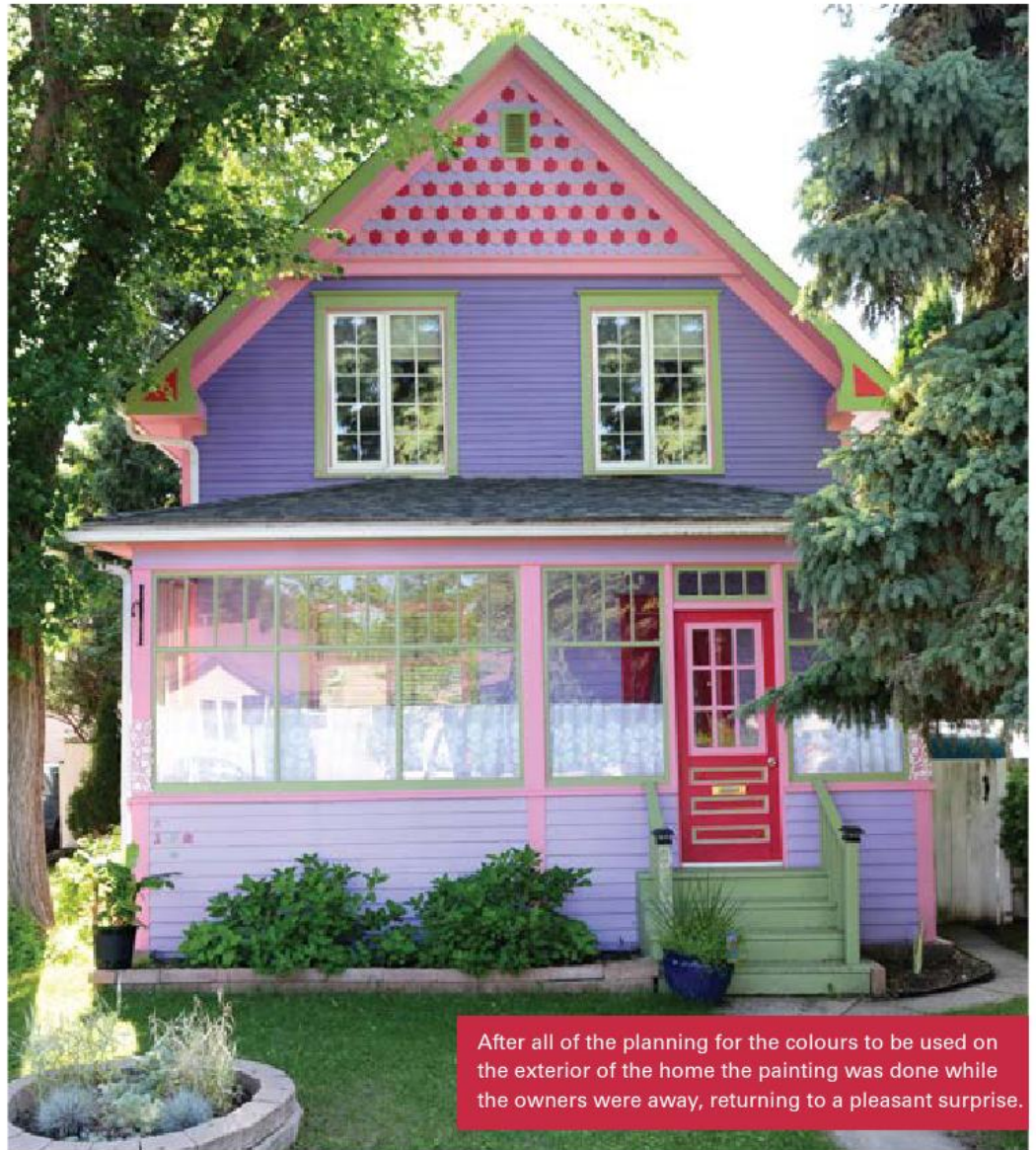
indeed, contributed to the final arrangement of colours. But in many ways it was a leap of faith. "We really didn't know how it would look in the end," Simone admitted. The actual painting was done while they were away and, as she says, the final product was "a bit of a surprise to all of us."

But a beautiful surprise it turned out to be. Probably, you couldn't get away with this kind of colour scheme in Briarwood or Stonebridge, but in Nutana, that most eclectic of neighbourhoods, Saskatoon's own "Painted Lady" truly does shine.

But Is It an Eaton's Home?

When Simone and Cam bought the house in 2009, the realtor told them it was an Eaton's house. But was it?

Comparing old tax rolls and directories in the city's archives with photographs from the Saskatoon Public Library's Local History Room, we determined that the house would have been built either in the late summer of 1909 or in the spring of 1910.



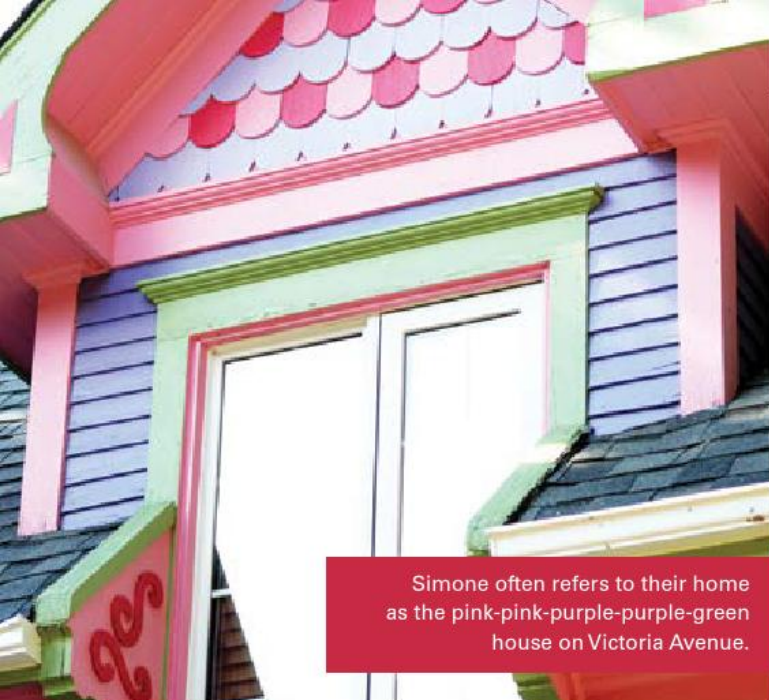
After all of the planning for the colours to be used on the exterior of the home the painting was done while the owners were away, returning to a pleasant surprise.



play

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Simone often refers to their home as the pink-pink-purple-purple-green house on Victoria Avenue.

1910. Unfortunately, while a date of 1910 is pretty early for an Eaton's house, it is not beyond the realm of possibility, so we were left where we started.

When we showed photographs of the house to Les Henry, author of the book, *Catalogue Houses: Eaton's and Others*, he was unequivocal that it didn't match any Eaton's plan of which he was aware. But he also pointed out that, "Just because you can't find it in a plan book doesn't mean it isn't an Ea-

ton's house." There are several reasons why a house might not look like the ones in the catalogues but still have come from Eaton's. And of course, it could have come from another company and simply been passed off generically as an Eaton's house.

One way to be sure might be to open up an exterior wall and look for the "double dead air space" construction which appears to have been distinctively an Eaton's trait. But even that might not

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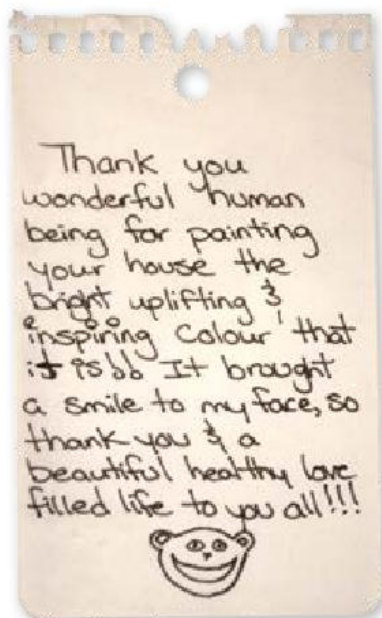
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This note was left in Simone and Cam's mailbox after they painted their house in 2012.

be conclusive, and it seems likely that the precise origin of this house will probably remain a mystery. 🏠

Jeff O'Brien



Saskatoon HOME asked the homeowners:

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING IN/ABOUT YOUR HOME?

Cam: "Hard to pick a specific thing, the novelty of catalogue homes. I just like that it is potentially a catalogue home."

Simone: "Apart from the first attraction for me (it possibly being an Eaton's home), I most love the touches Cam and I have added to the home's history (or story per se), the pond and oasis-like atmosphere we're creating in the yard and the paint job. I LOVE the paint job (and watching reactions from passers by)!"

WHAT PROJECT IN YOUR HOME IS NEXT?

Cam/Simone: "That's an easy one - more storage in the basement! The "boom" of 1912 had nothing on the accumulation of "stuff" that our world deals with 101 years later. This is our winter project. "

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ONE ROOM ||| THREE WAYS

Saskatoon HOME brought together three talented Saskatoon design consultants to transform one space, in three distinctive ways.

Each designer had the opportunity to meet Crystal and ask questions, and then they set to work to decorate a space that she would love.

At the end of this piece you will get to meet each of the designers, it is then your job to guess which designer created which space. Answers provided on page 23.

Enjoy!

Meet Crystal Dahl-Wildeman

- Profession:** Owner, Ethos SalonSpa & Barber
- Background information:** Crystal is a busy wife and mother with two children under 6 and a family dog named Lucy (a golden doodle).
- Personal Design Taste:** Eclectic, shabby chic, likes use of all different kinds of colours.
- Goal of the Bedroom Design:** Comfortable and sleepable.
- Must haves:** A place to keep an iPad next to the bed on each side.
- Would like:** A put together space that is also somewhat child and pet friendly.
- Must keeps:** "There is nothing in the room that has to stay, everything can go."
- Likes:** Environmental sensibility, incorporating live plants into her spaces and jewelry.
- Dislikes:** Stainless steel.



ROOM 1

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head board are from
International Furniture
Warehouse



Photo: Heather Fritz

ROOM 2

Light
fixture from
Richardson
Lighting

Paint from
Farrow & Ball,
Thibaut wall paper
from Braid Flooring
& Window Fashions

Decorative
accessories
from Details

Bedding,
drapery and dog
bed are all custom
from Braid Flooring &
Window Fashions

Side tables
and chair from
Furniture World



Photo: Heather Fritz

ROOM 3

Lazy Susan
Small Krustallos
hanging lamp
& Cameron
table lamp

Custom designed
rosewood screen
& petal side table
handcrafted in
Mexico

Bergère chair
& ottoman
(ottoman not shown)
black leather
and natural hide

Custom made
tufted headboard
& paisley pillows
using Kavet
fabrics

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2 tone
herringbone
sisal rug

Shiraleah
owl cushion &
throw on a studded
ebony bench with
golf leaf detail

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We asked each of the design consultants the same three questions:

- 1) What would you say your design style is?
- 2) With Saskatoon's growth over the last 5 years, what would you say is the biggest change you have seen in interior design?
- 3) Favorite item in the room you designed?



Michelle Rowlett
- Braid Flooring &
Window Fashions

Michelle Rowlett

Interior Design Consultant, Braid Flooring & Window Fashions

1. My personal design style is very classic. However, for my professional design style I like doing all types of designs: modern, contemporary, traditional, country. It really depends on what the client feels comfortable with.
2. The biggest change is local design over the last 5 years in my opinion is the willingness of clients to try new things. Through the internet and cable TV people are exposed to more unique design ideas and now they are willing to take a chance in their own homes.
3. My favorite item was the custom bedding. It really was the starting point for my design.



Designers favorite item.

Photo: Heather Fritz

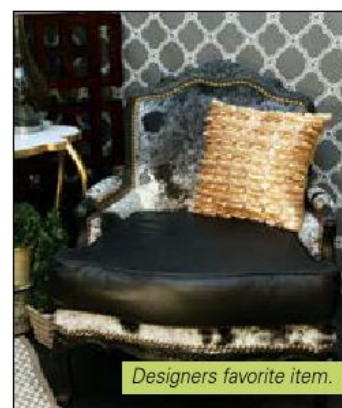


Tamara Bowman
- Metric Design Centre

Tamara Bowman

Lead Designer & Creative Director, Metric Design Centre

1. Make it personal! I focus on drawing clients' personalities into their space, and my strategy is to make their surroundings comfortable, inviting and personalized. This is achieved by layering materials with patterns, textures and colour.
2. The absolute biggest change that I have seen is that people are excited about design and are recognizing how beneficial and satisfying a well laid out and aesthetically pleasing space can be to live and work in.
3. If I had to pick I would say that my favorite piece in the room would be the handcrafted bergère chair. This piece is absolutely one of a kind. It is hand carved and imported for Guadalajara, Mexico. The combination of hides with the detailed carving and brass studding scream classic elegance.



Designers favorite item.

Photo: Heather Fritz



Chantelle Butterfield
- Funktional Space

Chantelle Butterfield

Owner, Funktional Space

- 1) I take my inspiration from my clients; it's not about my style. I can make any of them work as long as I have a starting or jumping off point, a picture, throw, bedspread, pillow, etc.
- 2) People finding out that letting a professional help them pick out finishes for their home could be, easy, fun, cheap and help them save money. When a gallon of paint is 50-75 dollars it doesn't take many mistakes to find out that that you could have hired somebody for that and you wouldn't have to go to all that trouble to get rid of the pink walls and painting again.
- 3) The wood tiles behind the bed that were hand crafted using reclaimed wood from destroyed and deteriorating barns.



Designers favorite item.

Photo: Heather Fritz

Answer Key

Three rooms, three designers. Did you correctly guess which designer created which room?

Room 1 (page 20) - Chantelle Butterfield ||| Room 2 (page 21) - Michelle Rowlett ||| Room 3 (page 22) - Tamara Bowman

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ISLAND CREATIVITY

A FRESH NEW LOOK AT THE KITCHEN ISLAND



KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER



HEATHER FRITZ

One of the more unusual islands in the news recently is the quirky and troublesome one near the end of Yann Martel's *Life of Pi*. In your home, the kitchen island is likely more top of mind with it often being the centre point of the most used room in your home.

With all sorts of amazing


configuration ideas for islands, when Saskatoon HOME saw this U shaped island we thought it was worth taking a close look! This inventive twist for the kitchen is the brainchild of Nathan and Dallas Stobbe, Donna Senterre and their team at Haven Builders. Instead of the rectangular counter, Haven's

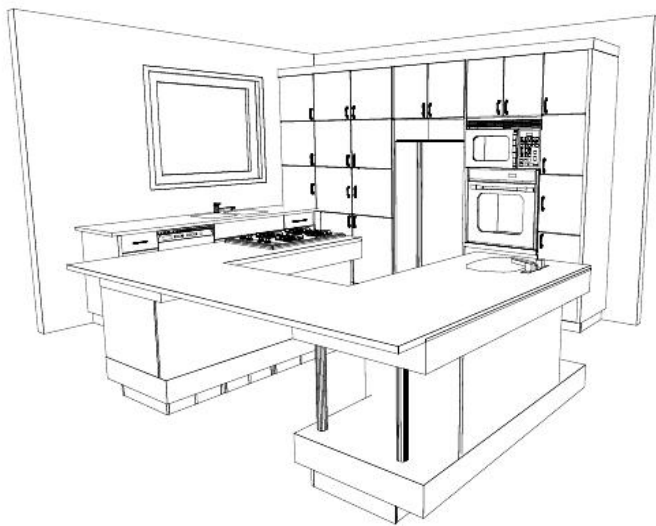
design turns that design on its ear. The eye-catching U shaped piece utilizes the kitchen space in a very functional, and entertaining friendly way.

Tasha Baier, Haven's New Home Consultant, says stepping back to think creatively about form and function can lead to interesting results. The exciting

focal point in the open kitchen and dining area in Haven's recent build on Werschner in Rosewood is a 7 ft. X 8 ft. X 7 ft. U-shaped island with a 3 ft. centre opening.

Creating a Multi-Use Focus

"By turning the traditional island into a U-shape 



accessible from the inside and out, we're turning it into a multi-use area. The built-in stove top is accessible from various angles and it's induction heating so there's no danger for kids or guests," Tasha explains. "The kids can do homework while you're making supper. It's perfect for a dinner buffet or party appetizers. The seating lends itself to breakfast dining and you can set it up for gaming, maybe poker night." Even a bit of office laptop work isn't a no-no.

A suspended hood ensures proper venting. A small bar sink is perfect for prep work and entertaining; the main sink is located in the traditional countertop under the cabinetry. There's plentiful storage on both arms of the U and it's left open underneath to allow for comfortable seating and the open view reduces the weighty feel of solid sides all the way around. To further reduce the potential for an imposing feel, the walnut woodwork sits on a light coloured cork floor for a bit of contrast. Topped with white Cambria torquay quartz featuring a slight sprinkle of colour throughout, and stainless steel accents, the island virtually beckons people to the kitchen area.

The Island Evolution

Form and function has been calling for the necessity of islands in the kitchen since the trend for more open kitchen and dining spaces—and better ventilation—that brought cooking into the realm of entertainment that involves the whole family and friends. First, it brought Mom (usually) out of a small, secluded kitchen with upper cabinets that blocked any hope of a view unless she bent over and peered underneath. The closed-off formal dining room—that usually sat in forlorn isolation in the company of a crochet table runner and a vase of silk flowers while household life



happened elsewhere – is a thing of the past.

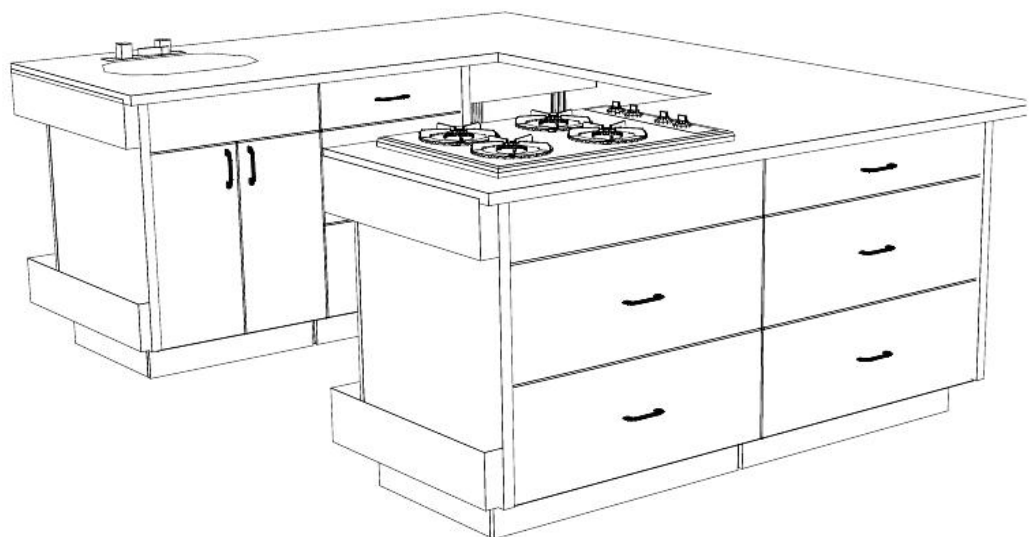
In the 'all together now' refrain of today's über-open concept, Haven's island stovetop means the cook never has to turn their back on anyone. The area is the heart of the home with the island at its core.

Imagination Creates Possibilities

"Nathan, Dallas and Donna love to try something different," says Tasha. "People get used to thinking of only what they've seen before, but if you use your imagination, there's no reason you can't do something

really unique and distinctive." Haven recently did a reno of a kitchen in an older home; the homeowners desperately wanted a big island but had given up on the idea in limited space. Once the demolition happened, Tasha says, "Their island was back on the table because we could create a completely custom-built one in a unique shape to fit and still allow for good function." 

Karin Melberg Schwier



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 **Karin Melberg Schwier**
Photo Courtesy: Wall Flats

FEATURE WALL INSPIRATION

FIVE IDEAS FOR YOUR HOME


The room is nice enough, but there's just... What? Just a little something missing. Maybe it needs a bit of a mini face-lift, something you can do yourself without a big investment of time, money and effort. How about a feature wall? I know, you're thinking that old dark paneling or the knotty pine tongue-in-groove your dad put up in the rumpus room

in the 70s. It was groovy then, but sort of fell out of favour. But with today's variety of wall coverings, the feature wall has morphed into something trendy, eye-catching and cool.

There are many materials, textures and colours you can choose from, depending on the room and the mood you'd like to invoke. Feature walls are a great way to add life to a

space—one wall—while keeping other walls in the room neutral. If you decide you want to try something else, or if it doesn't turn out the way you'd hoped, it's a lot easier and faster to redo one wall. You can get funky with pops of colour without it overwhelming you. Fuchsia on one wall is inspired; on all four, it's just purple! Because you're doing a relatively small space,

a feature wall is cost effective. Especially if you're going for a high-end feel, you can justify more costly materials since you're not pulling it throughout the area.

Let's have a look at five to compare the expense, effort and effect of each. 

IDEA 1: PAINT TECHNIQUES



Wall finishes (stenciling on left wall, and venetian plaster on back wall) by Leanne at The Urban Wall. Room design by Chantelle at Funktional Space.

Photo: Pete Lawrence

Of course, the cheapest and still one of the most versatile wall coverings is paint. The industry provides an array of advanced products and job-specific paints; consumer demand led to low- and no-VOC (volatile organic compounds). Designers have created a selection of faux finishes, glazes and decorative techniques that result in all sorts of looks. Leanne Falkowsky of The Urban Wall specializes in faux finishing, stenciling and Venetian plaster. She's given the "old school" techniques like sponging and ragging a new twist to achieve birch bark plaster, vertical concrete, custom life sized wall stencils, and other one-of-a-kind ideas that can add drama and dimension.

Expense

The investment can range from DIY sponging or ragging techniques all the way up to professionally applied Venetian plaster that can be brought to a polish or matte finish. Using paint and plaster are still relatively inexpensive ways to add colour, texture and interest to a wall.

Effort

With most jobs, the key is preparation. When you buy your paint, take advantage of the store's expertise and ask their advice. Do you want scrubable, matte, gloss? How do you prep the wall? Ask what tools you need for the look you're after. Laying out your tools and materials when you begin ensures everything is within reach. Depending on your comfort level and agility at reading instructions, there is a lot you can do yourself.

Effect

Even just a fresh coat of paint can make a noticeable difference. Bump that up with decorative painting or some eye-catching stenciling. If you love Italy, Venetian plaster will remind you of that Old World charm and sophistication. If you're DIY handy, then give it a go. But if you're concerned about ending up with something resembling cow patties on your wall, maybe find a good professional.

IDEA 2: SIMULATED STONE



Quality Stone is a particular brand of simulated stone that is easy to install yourself, and is far less heavy than an engineered stone.

Photo Courtesy: qualitystone.com

Have a look at Quality Stone, a synthetic yet durable exterior or interior product that is lightweight enough for inside non-load bearing walls. It looks like stone, and is non-toxic, non-gaseous and odour free.

Expense

Because Quality Stone is a high-density polyurethane, it's less expensive than natural stone and you eliminate the cost of masonry. You also don't need any structural reinforcements as you would with real stone.

Effort

It comes in staggered panels in a variety of styles. Like a puzzle, tongue-in-groove pieces are numbered so you fit them together properly. The website offers a full line of easy-to-follow installation videos, including electrical and fixture trim installation.

Effect

It looks like stone! It's also useful as a noise and cold barrier, so if your feature wall is against an adjacent bedroom, this product acts as a good damper.

IDEA 3: WALL FLATS



Wall flats are applied to the wall with tape or glue and then painted any shade you like. The texture created is a definite show stopper.

Photo Courtesy: Wall Flats

We wanted to show you a specific modular product here that is a nifty idea. Much like interlocking flooring, these panels are relatively easy to install. Have a look at www.wallflats.ca where you can see the different patterns and find a Saskatoon supplier.

Expense

About \$3 per square foot. An enviro-friendly product, Wall Flats are made from bagasse, a bi-product of sugarcane processing, something that used to be sent to the dump or burned. It's biodegradable and recyclable.

Effort

Pretty DIY-easy, the panels come straight out of the box onto the wall, which is clean, dry and prepped. Even the

prepping seems simple; if it's glossy plaster or paint, you need to rough up a bit with sandpaper and wipe down with a damp rag. Read the instructions carefully; there are cautions about thinking twice and applying once. They recommend laying it out on the floor first just to make sure. Once on the wall you prime and paint them any colour you want. There are downloadable directions and tips on the website.

Effect

This feature wall covering can really make a room pop. The 3-D effect creates a very modern look and though it pops, it can have quite a subtle presence.

IDEA 4: WOOD/LAMINATE

This particular laminate is from a supplier carried by Carpet Superstore. Vertical and horizontal hanging patterns can create a sophisticated and warm appeal.



Photo Courtesy: preverco.com

Stop thinking about those dark brown rumpus room panels! Wood and laminate really are cool and the possibilities here, too, are almost endless. The weathered wood look is still interesting, though swayback old barns are harder to come by now. But reclaimed woods from a variety of sources can create a dramatic look.


Expense

Decide what sort of a look you're going for and that will help you narrow your search. Like real stone, natural wood can add a lot of weight to a wall. Be sure your wall can take whatever you're going to attach and ensure the material is securely fastened. Much like the choices for wood flooring, you can go from less expensive laminate to high-end hand-scraped spice maple at three times the cost. You can also go to a flooring refinisher or the Habitat for Humanity ReStore and see what leftover odds and ends they might have.

Effort

Experienced DIY types who can do flooring can also do a feature wall. Same rules apply, like knowing how to stagger the pieces so you avoid a seam all in one spot. It's not a job for everyone with all that sanding, sawing and nailing, but if you're not afraid, give it a go! And there are laminate pieces that literally snap together that take care of a lot of the work for you. Remember, though, that even a new home wall might not be exactly square or straight so pay attention to your level and adjust as you go.

Effect

A great thing about wood (whether natural or a look-alike) is that it can produce a heritage rustic mood all the way to a polished and sophisticated one. Sometimes the trim and finishes help you determine that feel. 

IDEA 5: WALL PAPER



Wallpapering these days is an amazing experience. From colours, patterns, textures and materials that are incredible options at all budget levels. Room design by Atmosphere Interior Design.

Photo: Heather Fritz

Those of us who worked with this a couple of decades ago groaned when it became trendy again! But as with most building materials, evolution is a wonderful thing. No longer the catalyst for divorce, easy-to-work-with wallpaper now comes in a head-spinning array of colours, textures and designs.

Expense

There's a wide range of price points, so do some shopping around. For large selection many of the design boutiques in the city had great options, you can also look at paint and big box stores to see what they have to offer. You can spend a few dollars on low-end stuff, or hundreds for a roll of high-end fancy in materials like silk or bamboo. Decide how much of an investment you want to make, and remember you're just doing one wall, not an entire room. Just a word of caution, if you're not a rabid

DIY person, or maybe just a bit inexperienced with wallpaper and you just bought a \$300 roll of linen silk paper, maybe it would be worth it to get some expert help.

Effort

Gone are the days of pulling soaking sheets out of water-filled trays. Today's wallpaper comes dry and you apply the adhesive to a clean and prepped wall. There are types that are peelable, too, so if you want a change, you can have it without all the scraping and stripping.

Effect

Like the palate of paint colours available today, wallpaper has exploded with possibilities. You can have fun and whimsical in a child's bedroom, or elegant and sophisticated with a natural lyme grass or textured damask 

Karin Melberg Schwier



Photo Courtesy: D & M Images

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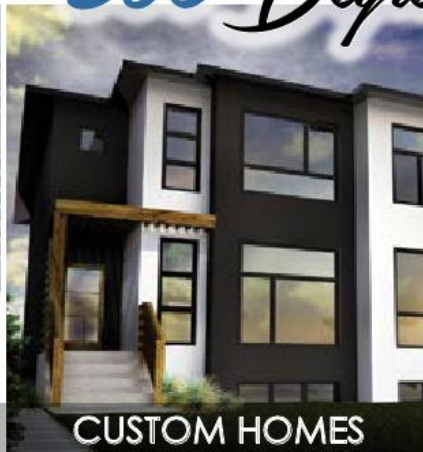
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A Laundry Room The Budget \$348

We hear from readers all the time that they would like ideas on how to better utilize the space they have in their homes – and we listened!

We brought in professional organizer Natasha Solvason from Home Free Organizing Solutions to analyze this particular laundry room and make suggestions on how to maximize unused space and make it more functional. 

THE PROBLEM: A CLUTTERED LAUNDRY



Challenge #1:

Open shelves over the washer dryer makes the room feel cluttered.

Solution: Cabinets with doors hung over the washer/dryer makes a better use of the available height of the wall and the doors hide clutter.

Price: 3 piece cabinet set, plus side counter all bought as a set : \$123 at Habitat for Humanity Restore.

Challenge #2:

Need to store gift bags, wrapping paper and bows in a more accessible way.

Solution: Two solutions made this possible

1. Door hanging shoe holder was modified to hold wrapping paper and decorations making good use of the unused door space. DIY TIP: The bottom of one level of the shoe pouch was cut to allow wrapping paper to fit.
2. Hooks on the wall.

Price:

1. Door hanging shoe holder: \$10 at Canadian Tire
3. Hooks: \$1 each at Canadian Tire.

ROOM/STORAGE SPACE



Challenge #3:

Want to access foldable chairs for company, but would like them out of the way.

Solution: Chair hangers on an underutilized wall that gets the chairs up and off the ground but keeps them accessible.

Price: \$10 each at Canadian Tire.



Challenge #4:

Need a place to store bulk buy items like paper towels, pop, etc. As well as extra odds and ends.

Solution: Utilizing the two existing sets of shelves side by side made a better use of the space on this wall.

Price:

1. Shelves: \$0 – already in the space.
2. Flower baskets: \$10 each at Michaels. 🛒



Challenge #5:

Nowhere to fold or hang laundry.

Solution: Sheet of laminated MDF with finished edges on top of the leveled washer dryer, and hanging tension closet rod.

Price:

1. MDF: \$25 at Home Depot
2. Tension rod: \$10 at Home Depot



Challenge #6:

Bare walls made the room feel cold and esthetically unappealing.

Solution: Above the washer/dryer as a backsplash are Wall Flats, a DIY option that are glued or taped to the wall and then painted. This added colour to the space as well as texture. Wall stickers were another way to inexpensively add colour to the space and make it feel warmer and more homey.

Price:

1. Wall Flats: \$68 for a package of 9 at a local hardware store (\$2.99/square foot)
2. Paint for Wall Flats: \$20
3. Tree Wall Stickers (there were two trees per package, and two packages used): \$15/package at Walmart

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Laundry Room Budget

Cabinets = \$123

Door Hanging Shoe Holder = \$10

Hooks = 2 x \$1 = \$2

Chair Hangers = 2 x \$10 = \$20

Organization Baskets = 4 x \$10 = \$40

Laminated MDF = \$25

Tension Rod = \$10

Wall Flats Backsplash with Paint = \$88

Tree Wall Stickers = 2 x \$15 = \$30

TOTAL = \$348

Note: Prices listed are before tax (H)

Lillian Lane

A man in a workshop is looking at plans on a mobile cabinet. The cabinet has a wooden top and grey metal doors with a diamond plate pattern. The workshop has a wooden workbench, a miter saw, and various tools and materials. The background shows more cabinets and shelves.

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WHAT'S NEW IN MOVING

PLANNING AHEAD, CHOOSING THE RIGHT FIT HELPS HOMEOWNERS COPE



KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER

We've all done it. Wobble out of the liquor store, arms full of empty boxes, cozy up to even a vague acquaintance who's got a truck, and start wrapping our possessions in newspaper with the hapless aplomb of someone clearly in over their head. Moving is one of the top ten most stressful life events. Gather your wits in advance and make moving easier.

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ExpressAddress.com is a free online treasure that lets you tell multiple businesses and organizations all in one shot that you're about to move. This service is provided at no charge to you with organizations and businesses paying a membership fee to be included as an option on the site. You as the user can then choose to have your information updated to that specific business or not.

Angie Rhodes at Express Address says the self-serve site has 14 participating organizations. The user just needs the particular identification listed on the site.

"I like to think of it as moving made easier online," says Angie. "ExpressAddress allows Saskatchewan residents to connect, transfer or disconnect residential services for telephone, electricity, natural gas and water, all in one place.

Users can also update their address for driver's licenses, vehicle registrations, health cards, library cards, city services such as pet licenses and more."

In The Beginning

The storage industry didn't really exist until the 1960s. It grew exponentially in the 90s and today it's booming. The irony of living in a throwaway society is that we accumulate but don't do as well on the

subtraction side. A multitude of moving and storage companies offers small containers to big units, and a variety of storage solutions. Some offer a green incentive, some donate a portion of their profits to charities and foundations. Research the many options before you make that trip to the liquor store.

Anson Liski is the Mobile Sales Leader with Modular Storage Systems. He suggests clients determine their needs to see what company is the best match. His company offers a range of reusable containers, called MODs, from small totes all the way up to giant storage containers (up 320 cubic feet containers). They drop them off at your home, you pack them with your property and either keep the container at your home or Modular will pick it up and store it for you. Another great option if you are moving homes is to pack up the MOD and have it delivered directly to your moving destination.

Store it? Sell it? Donate it?

"If you can make the time at the beginning, evaluate your investment," Anson advises. "There are some things you could possibly give away to your children or relatives who need things. Charities are always open for donations. We think it is important to give back and \$1 from every unit we have goes towards our MSS Children's Fund."

John Smith, the owner of The S.A.F.E. (Store Anything Fast & Easy) Company agrees that one of the best investments is time at the very beginning of the move.

"People need to purge. Use the opportunity," John encourages. "If you're moving to Calgary, it might be cheaper to sell or donate and buy new

when you settle in. Of course it's different if you have high-end furniture, antiques or sentimental items. But you need to ask whether storing old computers and the kids' old hockey sticks and skates they've outgrown is worth it."

The S.A.F.E. Company has container options in a number of sizes and you can choose to rent or purchase them. These units are great for storing items in preparation for a move, getting things out of the way while renovating, or pulling some things out of your home that are cluttering your space but need to be held on to.

S.A.F.E. also sells a line of units that come flat and that can be carried in and assembled on site in five minutes by two people without tools, and will hold up to six tons. This is a handy option if you plan to move the large container to different places from time to time. There is a video on their website that demonstrates this set up and is quite interesting to see if this is an option you are looking at.

Determine Your Needs

"My best advice is to explore your options as much as you can," says Anson. Most storage companies rent containers or space by the day, week, month and year. Modular's reusable boxes appeal to cost-saving environmentalists who don't like buying cardboard that ultimately gets thrown away, and also to those who don't have the resources to transport their things into storage.

"Once you decide what you need to move or store, some people prefer to pack, have us store the totes or units, and then unpack once at the end to reduce how many times they actually have to handle their things," Anson says. "Their



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time is a big consideration, too."

Frogbox is a moving box company built on the green concept; their lightweight durable packing boxes have a long lifespan. The company delivers your order and picks up the empties.

"The majority of our customers are interested in convenience first with the 'green' factor a bonus," says

Catherine McQueen, Frogbox owner. "Boxes are dropped off, ready to pack. There's no need to drive around picking up boxes and then taping them once you get them packed. Frogboxes are sturdy, water resistant, stackable with handles so they're easier to use over cardboard. When you're finished, you don't need to deconstruct the boxes and recycle them."

Pack Properly

John at S.A.F.E. Co. urges his customers to take extra effort to protect their possessions, even if they're going into moving containers and storage units.

"Overprotect your things. Anything that you can't lose, don't put

it in storage. Ask a relative to hold on to priceless artwork or family photos," John advises. "Shrink-wrap your furniture, protect your big screen TV and electronics. Don't just throw things in a box and hope for the best."

Avoid Hitchhikers

Frogbox donates a percentage of profits to protect frog habitat; they're not so crazy about another critter that should worry people who are moving.

"Reused cardboard boxes are soft and retain moisture," says Catherine. "That's an appealing home for bedbugs. Frogboxes are cleaned each time between customers and are made from high-density polyethylene. Very dense and strong, great for moving but doesn't attract bedbugs."

OUT ON THE STREET

If you don't relish the idea of keeping a storage unit on your lawn (ouch, the grass) or driveway (ouch, in the way), the City of Saskatoon offers a free permit to temporarily put a container on the street until you're ready to move or move back in when your reno is done. Contact the City Permit Office at 306-975-2645.

Enjoy the Adventure

Sometimes emergencies can't be helped; packing and moving is a frenzied affair. But by figuring out what needs to go and how best to get it there, moving can be exciting and relatively stress free. ☺

Karin Melberg Schwier



ROSEWOOD

**City of
Saskatoon**
Land Branch

Rosewood is an exciting new neighbourhood concept conveniently located in the Southeast corner of Saskatoon and designed to harmonize nature with the conveniences of modern day life. The neighbourhood benefits from its proximity to efficient transportation links and a variety of shopping options. It is adjacent to Highway 16 and has access off Taylor Street and Boychuk Drive, providing easy entry to the downtown business core.

Rosewood has been designed around a centrally located Village Square, which will provide residents with an attractively landscaped urban park and give the neighbourhood its sense of place. Land parcels around the square will offer a variety of housing types, accommodating a diverse range of lifestyle choices. The Land Branch has approximately 45 single family lots, one mixed use lot and several multi-family lots.

Next to Rosewood is 65 acres of wetland and green space, natural trails and conservation areas. Its award winning wetland design is managed and enhanced by Ducks Unlimited and the Saskatoon Wildlife Federation.

*LOTS of information.
JUST ASK!*

For details on lot availability in Rosewood or other land developments including Evergreen and Kensington, contact the City of Saskatoon Land Branch at (306) 975-3278, visit www.saskatoon.ca/gol/rosewood or contact your homebuilder.





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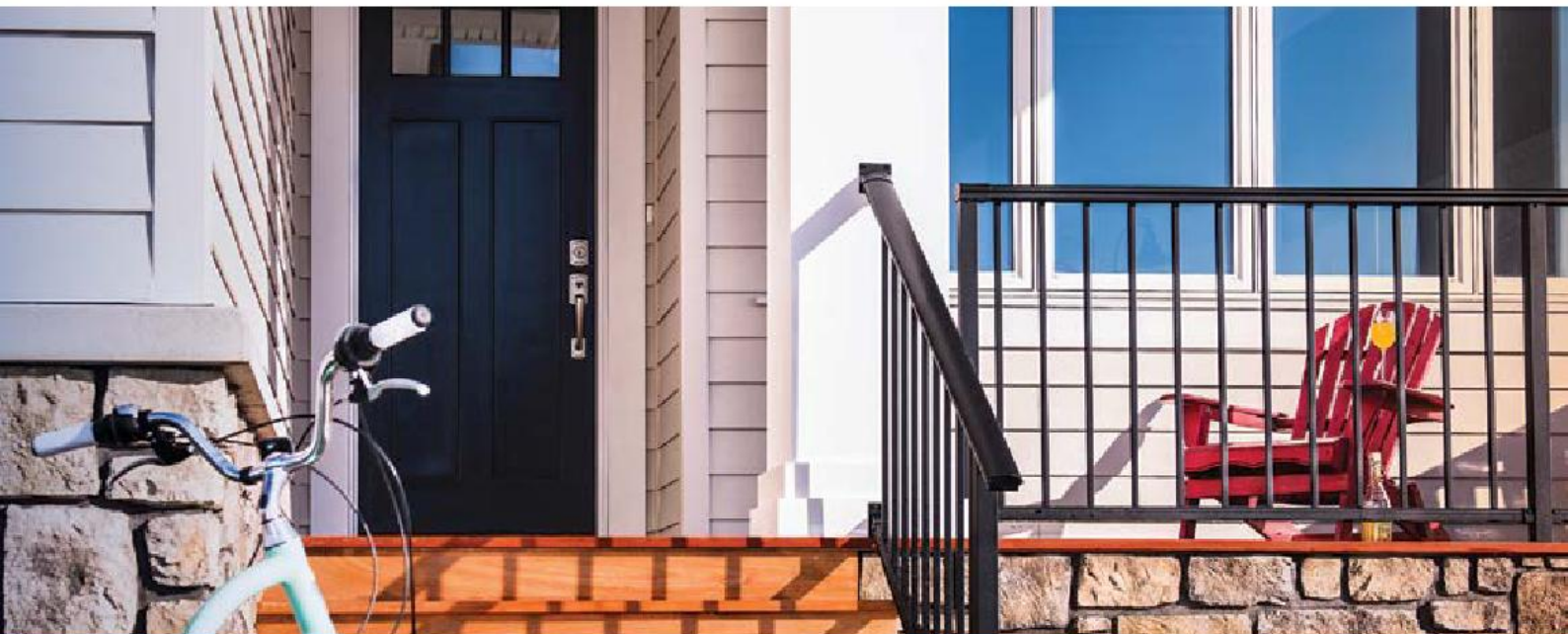
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WHAT IS YOUR DESIGN STYLE?

Traditional



Photo Courtesy: Redl Kitchens



Photo Courtesy: D & M Images

Transitional



Photo Courtesy: D & M Images



Photo Courtesy: D & M Images

Modern



Photo Courtesy: Conscious Studios



Photo Courtesy: D & M Images

Design is subjective and often the lines are blurred between style categories.

A Guide to Your Inner Style Lingo:

Traditional Style edges more toward craftsmanship, elegant details, softer lines and warmer materials.

Transitional Style (also referenced as "updated classic," "classic with a contemporary twist") refers to a blend of traditional and contemporary styles, a halfway point between old world traditional and the world of chrome and glass contemporary.

Modern Style is generally characterized by simplification of form, and an edited approach.

Eclectic

Like a little bit of two or more to the categories above? You may have a more eclectic style, taking elements of different style classes and finding a way to layer them to create harmony.

All of these products can be bought right here in Saskatoon!

Modern lamp - Atmosphere Design Lounge. Other stand alone lamps and accessories - Charter House Interiors.

Livingroom and kitchen designs - Atmosphere Interior Design. Traditional and Modern kitchens - Redl Kitchens. Transitional kitchen - Penny Lane Cabinetry.



KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER

HEATHER FRITZ

BEING THE BEST DESIGN CLIENT YOU CAN BE

Whether starting with a blank canvas, updating an existing space or looking for help with a renovation overhaul, there comes a point when you may realize you are in over your head and need the help of a designer.

We know that hiring a designer can sound expensive and overwhelming. So Saskatoon

HOME sought out the expert advice of Curtis Elmy with Atmosphere Interior Design to set you on the right track before you invest money and time in the process.

Curtis, partner Trevor Ciona and the Atmosphere team are well known for their attention to detail, and have been celebrated on a national scale

for their design work. Featured by Style at Home magazine, Western Living and Luxury Homes Canada, they have also been featured on blogs worldwide, and their designs have won several categories on the inspiration website Houzz.com. The best part though - they operate right here in Saskatoon.


Have You Done Your Research?

Invest some time by creating a portfolio of your favorite things, and if you don't live alone be sure to have these conversations with others who live with you. Visit show homes and flooring stores. Pay attention when visiting friend's homes. "Decide what you do and don't like. Buy the

last couple months' worth of design magazines and see what's trending. What are editors saying about various products? How do things hold up?" Curtis advises potential design clients to do their homework first to sharpen their own focus.

When doing your preliminary research look for things in two categories, like and dislike. This will help your designer to understand what is the emotional driver behind your style inclinations.

Do You Have the Right Personality to Hire a Designer?

Now that you have done some prep work, the next question you need to ask yourself is - are you ready to accept the advice and direction that a designer would bring to the table? All the creative expertise and energy in the 



Trevor (left) and Curtis (right) from Atmosphere Interior Design listen to their client Melissa share her ideas for the project.



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world won't translate without a clients' complete confidence and participation in a perfectly synced relationship.

"Loving a white kitchen is great, but rather than copying that idea exactly as you saw it in a magazine or another source, a collaborative design process allows your designer to recreate or reinvent the designs you found inspiration in. A designer will work with you on your vision to create one that's uniquely designed for you."

The key message here is if

you hire someone, don't tie his or her hands. If you won't budge on what you already have in your head, save your money. Just take your samples and clippings to various stores around the city and get what you want.

Are You Willing to Answer a Lot of Questions?

You may feel some are quite personal and may not be sure exactly how the answer will guide the process, but a good designer will probe to find out what they need to do their job.



"There are so many things to consider and part of our job is to find out what you like and why," Curtis says.

So be prepared to talk. What do you like about friends' homes? What TV shows have you seen where you fell in love with the set? When you travel, what hotels do you love? How does your family live? Do you entertain with your shoes on? Do you have a dog? Do you love to cook? Are you going to let the kids eat in the living room? Do you worry if people put their feet up or spill their wine? Do you like colour? Do you worry about resale?

Are You Willing to Commit?

After all the talk, and a plan in

place, you need to let go. "This is the point where you stop looking at magazines and show homes and websites and let us do what you hired us to do," Curtis laughs, acknowledging that it's not always easy. But it's a necessary transition from helping that could easily devolve into hindering the project. "You have to realize, 'Okay, I'm done and content.' Not 'Oh, I saw this on HGTV last night and this is what I really want!'"

Are You Looking For a Vision or to Save Time?

"You certainly don't want to pay a designer to be a gofer to do things you are capable of doing yourself," says Curtis. "Of

in the process, and handing over your confidence in hiring a designer or design firm you admire and trust.

"To get the best bang for your dollar, you want your designer to be able to transform something for you. By thinking about these things and sharing them with us, we're going to be able to design something that is uniquely you," Curtis explains.

"The best compliment we get is when someone sees one of our projects and says, 'I know Atmosphere did the design, but it looks like my friend Melissa.' When you can see client's personality through the design it's the best feeling, and is the sign of a great relationship.

"You wouldn't just take your accountant a big box of receipts, or go to your hairdresser without giving him some clue about your style. Do your preparation; decide what you like and don't like and give your designer something to start with." – Curtis from Atmosphere

course your time is valuable, but you want a designer's creativity and expertise, not just to pick up things on a shopping list."

Understand Your Motivations

It all comes down to having a clear understanding of the goal of the project, your role

You hire a specific designer because you like their signature esthetic. We're proud of our design elements, but when you can see the person living in that space, it's the best feeling."


Designer vs. Decorator

These terms are used interchangeably quite frequently,

but it is important to know that there is a difference between the profession of interior designer and interior decorator from a technical standpoint. This is a topic that has been looked at in past issues of Saskatoon HOME (look at the Winter 2011 issue online at www.saskatoon-home.ca/read-online as an example), but it is worth a short note here.

Interior designers achieve a specific schooling path with background not only on the esthetic and visual side of design, but also have the ability to recommend moving walls and architectural elements related to renovating and new home builds.

Interior decorators typically choose a different path of education or earn their skill through work experience. They have the eye and expertise to pull a space together visually and achieve a functional and beautiful space for the home owner.

If you aren't sure what you need for your space, ask the questions so that you make the right choice for your project, budget and overall enjoyment of the design process. 

Karin Melberg Schwier



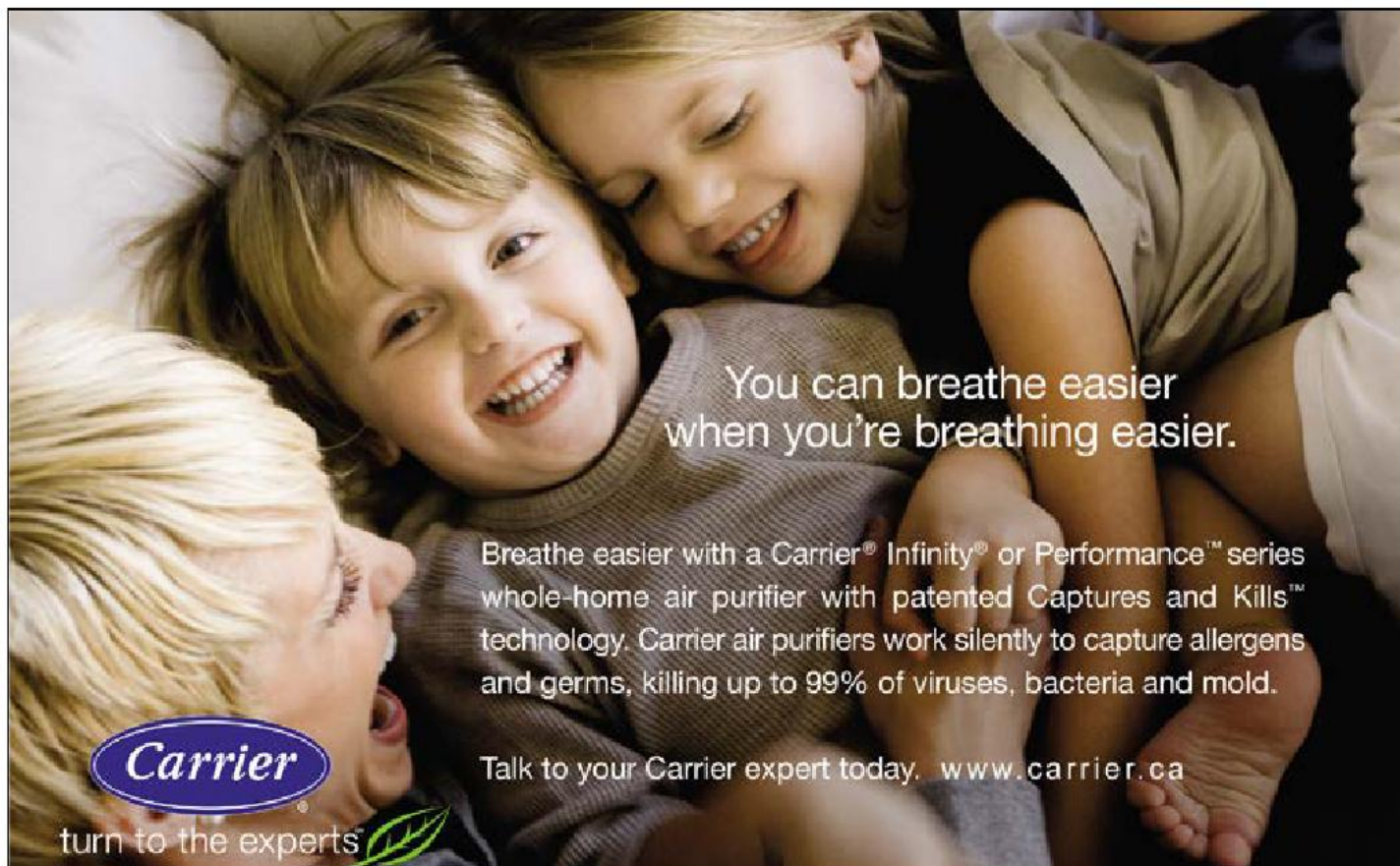
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GEOTHERMAL HEATING AND COOLING:

GREEN TECH WITH PRACTICAL BENEFITS



Geothermal heating and cooling is most popular in rural settings, but it's also an option in the city.



ASHLEIGH MATTERN

Photo Courtesy: Dwight's NextEnergy

With special rebates available and the promise of long-term savings, green technologies like geothermal heating and cooling are piquing the interest of homeowners.

But can geothermal be installed in the city? Can you retrofit a home to run a geothermal system? And what the heck is geothermal heating and cooling anyway?

"The common misconception is that we need to drill down into the earth into somewhere where it's warm and we bring that warm liquid or air or whatever it is up and we circulate that through the house, which absolutely isn't

true," says Kevin Bergeron, co-owner and president of Dwight's Next Energy.

"We're actually creating heat through a refrigeration cycle based on the energy we're grabbing from the earth."

How Does Geothermal Work?

Under the frost line, the earth stays a relatively consistent temperature all year long, and geothermal systems take advantage of that.

In the winter, the system sends out a cold, engineered fluid through a closed loop system under the frost line. As it travels through the pipes, it warms up.

The warmed up fluid is still cold to the touch, like cool tap water, but it contains more energy than when it was sent out, and that extra energy is what's important to the geothermal technology. The fluid then exchanges its energy with a refrigerant that boils at a very low temperature.

"We take that refrigerant and we run it through a compressor, just like the compressor on the back of your fridge, or a regular air conditioner," explains Bergeron.


Because compressed refrigerant creates heat, they're able to get temperatures up to about 43 to 65 degrees Celsius

from the refrigerant.

"We take that hot refrigerant, and we now will circulate it through an air coil and then blow air across that air coil, just like a regular furnace blows air across an air coil that's heated by natural gas or electric."

During the summer, the system essentially reverses, pulling heat from the air in the house to warm the liquid, then depositing the heat in the ground outside, and bringing the liquid back at a lower temperature.

Pros and Cons

In the past 13 years, Dwight's Next Energy has 

This Evergreen home built by Lexis Homes has a geothermal system, but you'd never know by looking at it!



Photo Courtesy: Craig Leontowicz

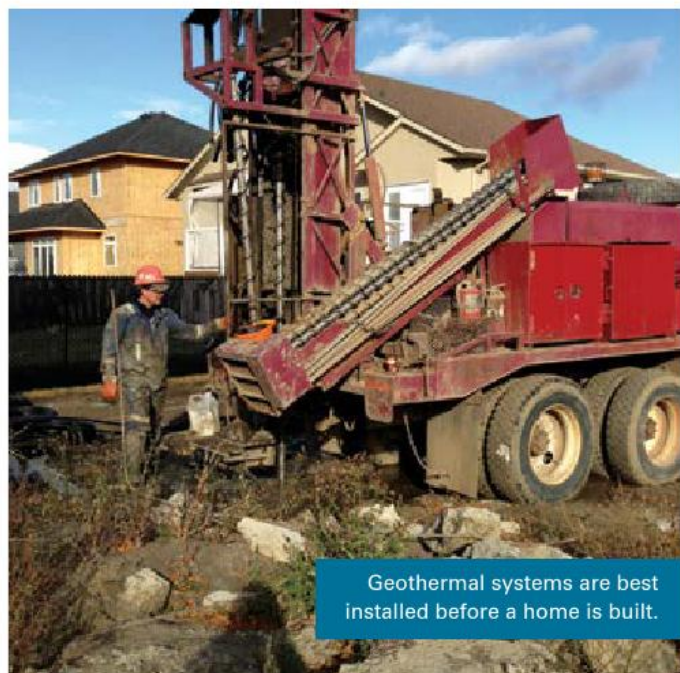
installed about 1,200 geothermal systems in the province. About 99 per cent of those were in rural areas because geothermal is cheaper than the alternatives of either propane or diesel, or getting a natural gas line out to the home. For rural homeowners, the capital costs can be recovered in four to five years.

In the city, though, it costs next to nothing to connect a home to a natural gas line, while a geothermal system will cost around \$10,000. (This figure is the average cost a geothermal system would cost compared to a natural gas system). And because

natural gas is so cheap, Bergeron estimates you might only save \$500 per year with a geothermal system compared to a high-efficiency furnace and air conditioner. At that rate, it could take 15 to 20 years to recoup the upfront costs.

Retrofitting a home is possible, but Dwight's needs to be able to get access to the backyard to do the drilling, through a back alley, for example. New builds are easier because they can install the loops before the foundation is dug.

But there are still benefits for city slickers: the system is quiet, there's no air conditioner




Geothermal systems are best installed before a home is built.

Photo Courtesy: NextEnergy

eyesore in the yard, your natural gas bill will disappear completely, and there's zero risk of carbon monoxide poisoning because no natural gas is hooked up to the house.

The temperature in the house also remains more steady because geothermal systems run longer and circulate more air at a lower temperature compared to most furnaces that blast a house with hot air then turn off until the temperature dips again. The increased circulation also keeps humidity in check, and can help with allergies.

A Homebuilder's Perspective

Cam Skoropat, co-owner of Lexis Homes, worked with Dwight's to install a geothermal system in a new build in Evergreen recently, and he says the process was painless. 

The installation of a geothermal system requires full access to the yard.



Photo Courtesy: Dwight's NextEnergy

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Photo Courtesy: Dwight's NextEnergy

"It doesn't really add any time to the home building," said Skoropat. "You just need a day for drilling, but in the big picture of how long it takes to build a home, it's basically nothing."

The changes Lexis made to their process to accommodate the green technology were relatively minor: they needed an engineer to supply site drawings, the build started with drilling for the geothermal pipes instead of starting with the foundation, and trades needed to be informed that they'd be working with the technology.

Geothermal also didn't affect the design of the house in any way, says Skoropat. The system fits neatly in the utility room just like a regular furnace. You

would never know the house has geothermal heating and cooling unless you visited the utility room and noticed the equipment was different.

The homeowners approached Lexis about installing a system, and Skoropat and his team are always up for the challenge of trying something new, so they set to work to make it happen for the homeowner. Since completing the Evergreen home, Skoropat says they ask all homeowners if they're interested in geothermal heating and cooling. 

Ashleigh Mattern

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Favourite colours and styles change often as our kids grow from toddlers to teens. Children want to infuse their own personalities into their bedrooms. And they should; after all, it is their space. Fortunately, there are many ways to do this harmoniously with the rest of a home without succumbing to Elmo overload.

Giving kids room to grow in their bedrooms begins with choosing the right furniture when they are newborns. Jordana Jacobson, Owner of Cravings Maternity & Baby Boutique and Cravings KIDS Lifestyle Boutique, recommends choosing convertible furniture that can be adaptable as children mature.

Convertible Furniture

Convertible cribs can be switched to a toddler bed and then to a double bed as a child grows. This alternative is convenient for a few reasons – financial (one time cost spread out over many years), green (don't have to sell or haul that crib to the dump), and growth development. As many kids consider their beds to be a safe haven, allowing the crib to be converted to a toddler bed, and then full sized bed frame can comfortably aid your child in moving through the 'big steps' of life.

Dressers and desks are other convertible staples that can first be used as change tables by simply adding a padded changing pad to the top. After

the short diaper stage – which often seems to last forever to a parent – the change pad is removed, instantly converting from a nursery to a toddler room. For those who have more than one child sharing a room this is a great option to maximize the use of surfaces within the children's room.

Jacobson notes that these versatile furniture pieces are intended to last, and so both the cost and quality is often higher than mass-produced pieces, but long-lasting, classic furniture is well-worth the investment when designing a room to grow with your child.

Adding Personality

Now that you have the bones of the room in key pieces of

furniture, there are easy and inexpensive ways to embrace your child's personality in their bedrooms - start with colour. It is often simplest to keep at least the majority of the walls and furniture colours neutral. Grey is currently the most used neutral for kids' bedrooms, following the trend found throughout today's homes.

According to Jordana, most popular for children's bedrooms continues to be blues and greens for boys, pinks and purples for girls. What is new however, are fun, bold prints like polka dots, stripes and chevron.

Colour and pattern can be added to a feature wall, or be included in the bedroom's accessories, which makes

them easily and economically swapped as a child's taste changes.

Toss pillows, bedding, lamps, rugs and wall art are all easy ways to update a child's bedroom. Allowing a child to help select some of these items as they age is a way to create a bedroom that feels like their personal space. Accessorizing with favorite characters of the moment can be a smart way to add personality and appease your children without theme-overload.

Installing some key hardware items such as shelves helps create order within a space. Allowing your kids to add their personal prized possessions to these areas (which will inevitably switch from dolls and super heroes to autographed celebrity photos and sports trophies as they age) this gives them a way to display their favourite things, but also

creates parameters around the maximum pieces allowed to eliminate hoarding tendencies. Once the shelves are full, it is time to go through them to move some items to storage or donate them.

Same premise can be used with a hanging magnetic or push pin bulletin board. It is a stylish way to offer a space to proudly show off school photos, certificates of achievement and their latest crushes, which can easily be changed as their tastes do, and save your walls from gashes and holes.

Top 5 Simple & Inexpensive Ways to Update a Child's Bedroom

1. Walls – While keeping walls a neutral colour is the easiest way to switch colour schemes, painting a wall the colour of your child's choice can give a bedroom a fresh look. Popular right now is wallpapering one wall in a bold pattern or print.

Convertible cribs and dressers are typically more expensive on the front end, but good quality pieces can grow with your child until they are ready to leave the nest.



Photo Courtesy: College Woodwork

As your kids grow, installing items like shelves and bulletin boards can continually grow with your kids, and not only give them a zone to express themselves with their select items, but also creates space parameters around the maximum amount of items in that area.

Too much pattern or colour can make a bedroom feel smaller, so it is best to keep to one feature wall.

2. Bedding – Sheets and duvet covers in a bold colour or print is a simple way to change up the look in a bedroom, and



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Selecting furniture for a baby's room that could easily be used in another room in your home once the rocking stage has concluded is a smart way to stretch dollars and style.



Photo Courtesy: Monte Design

going with Transformers or Dora that are time specific trends in your child's world gives them excitement in their space.

3. Pillows – Toss cushions can add some colour and personality. Your pre-teen loves One Direction? Rather than plastering an entire wall with magazine photos, frame and hang their favourite poster and then use accessories like toss cushions to bring a bit more of their favourite boy band into their bedroom.

4. Curtains and Pulls – Similar to bedding, purchasing curtains in a colour or pattern that ties into the rest of the bedroom is an inexpensive way to update the look of the entire room.

Selecting a more neutral curtain, but buying themed curtain pulls like footballs or SpongeBob can add your child's personality without overwhelming the space.

5. Art – Wall decals are found in abundance all around the city from boutique stores like Cravings, to big box retailers and even Dollarama. Inspirational words for a baby's bedroom walls to fun patterns and even interactive race car tracks for active little auto enthusiasts, decals are easily removable and can instantly transform the look and feel of a child's bedroom. 

Aviva Zack

Have other suggestions to share? Go to our Facebook page and tell us about them! www.facebook.com/saskatoon.home



KIDS AND PARTIES

As your kids grow, there are a number of reasons to celebrate – birthdays, graduations, etc. Ever feel like the presents accumulated through these celebrations will eventually take over your home, or send you out to buy a separate storage facility?

Why not focus on the root cause of the celebration, and funnel those gifts to a good cause? There is a Saskatoon website that helps you do just this! PartiesforGood.com.

Supported by the Saskatoon Community Foundation, all you have to do is go to the website, choose your charity, customize a page, and send out invites telling your guests that rather than bringing a gift they can donate online and help to support your child's favorite cause.

Plus, donations of \$20 qualify for a charitable tax receipt that is emailed directly to your guests' inboxes.

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How Does A Saskatoon Neighbourhood Come To Be?

PRIVATE, PUBLIC, PARTNERSHIP – A CONCEPT UNIQUE TO SASKATOON

It's a bright summer morning as I make my way east on Taylor Street towards the neighbourhood of Rosewood. As I get closer to my destination, the first thing I notice is the amount of lush green space on both sides of the road. When I turn into this new development, there are children playing in the baseball diamond to my left. Winding trails, native plants and wetlands lay just beyond the ball field.

There's a lot of planning that goes into new Saskatoon neighbourhoods like Rosewood. Well before homeowners select their cabinetry and countertops, the City of Saskatoon is collaborating with private developers behind the scenes to create communities that aim to serve our booming population well.

Saskatoon is Unique

Looking across the country Saskatoon is truly distinct, being

one of the very few cities with a land branch that develops residential neighbourhoods. What this means to the city is a hybrid of public, private partnership developments.

"This is unique in Canada and it has served the citizens of Saskatoon well – receiving dividends from the development of neighbourhoods in the hundreds of millions of dollars. That money is being reinvested in roads and infrastructure," says Saskatoon Mayor Don Atchison. He adds that the City's profits are also reinvested in attainable housing. In the past five years the City has built 2,534 attainable homes with the proceeds of the residential development.

For the private developers involved, it means the City is both a regulator and competitor. Arbutus Properties is currently developing The Meadows, a community that makes up 45 per cent of Rosewood (roughly 2,000 of the 4,200 units). Two

other private companies (Boychuk and Jastek) and the City are developing the rest of the neighbourhood.

"When you're competing with your best ally and governing body, it adds a level of complexity that's not common practice we've seen in other cities where we've worked," says Jeff Drexel, President of Arbutus. Despite the complexity, Drexel sees the relationship as mutually beneficial. "We try to work with the City to bring affordable, quality development that can hopefully meet the City's goals for expansion and meet our goals of delivering a high quality product." He adds that the City's involvement in developing Rosewood pushed the project forward very quickly.

Effective collaboration with the other players is key when it comes to consistency. "We have a good relationship with Boychuk, and with the City, and we meet regularly to discuss

how we can keep the area's infrastructure and overall landscape consistent because that's the biggest advantage – you want to have a consistent approach," says Drexel.

When it comes to building residential infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, sewer, water and gas lines) the City approaches the private sector to obtain bids. The price they pay the winning bidder is later factored into the cost of the land.

Pros and Cons

The City of Regina isn't currently involved in residential development, but smaller cities like Weyburn, Yorkton and Prince Albert are to various degrees. Martino Verhaeghe, the City of Weyburn's director of planning and development, says there are advantages and disadvantages to public involvement.

"The pros for city-led development are many, but the greatest is that it allows



They have high-income people living in one area, middle in another and low-income people in another area. And I can tell you quite frankly – that serves no one well.”

Atchison says it also gives the City the ability to create mixed-use developments.

“It’s allowed us to sell some of our lands in the concept of work-live. For example, we build offices on the main floor and then have living space above them.” Every new neighbourhood will have some opportunities to incorporate the work-live concept.

Keeping Saskatoon compact and increasing density are strong focuses explains Atchison.

“The City is very shrewd in the way it develops lands. We always develop the next most expensive piece of land as opposed to other communities that may even leap frog a mile of land to develop someone else’s land. In Saskatoon, we always do the next piece of land abutting the last residential area.” Existing storm water lines, arterial roads, collector roads, and services such as policing and fire protection mean that it’s simply more efficient to keep the city as compact as possible.

“The downtown area will always remain the centre of our city,” Atchison adds. “If you

have a city that’s more round – keeping the downtown in the middle – travel times are reduced significantly.”

Looking Ahead

Since 2006 more than 70,000 people have moved to Saskatoon and more people

are arriving every day. Some of them will want a downtown dwelling and others will desire that nearby baseball diamond and park.

Our growing population and the housing decisions we make will ultimately determine what gets built, says Atchison.

“Politicians can say whatever they want to, but it’s the people who actually have to put their pen on the paper and write that cheque – they’ll tell you what they’re going to buy.”




Building Opportunities for Small Contractors and Individuals

City-led development means that smaller contractors can get their foot in the door more easily than they could otherwise. Saskatoon has many small homebuilders who construct only a handful of homes each year. These opportunities simply don't exist in other large centres where private development reigns. As a result, Saskatoon has twice the number of homebuilders who are registered members of the local Canadian Home Builders' Association than Regina.

Addressing the downfalls of public development, Atchison says, "I think you'll always find people who would suggest that we need to sell more to individuals. But we're one of the few cities anywhere that allows individuals to build homes."

Lots are allocated for people

who wish to build their own home and they are distributed through organized lot draws. In most other large cities, infill is the only option for doing a private build. 

Julie Barnes



In the Winter 2013 issue of Saskatoon HOME we will speak to the Saskatoon & Region Home Builders' Association and look at the effect of having a proportionately large number of home builders operating in Saskatoon, when compared to the other major cities in Western Canada.

CANADIAN HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION HOMEBUILDER MEMBERS*

Central Vancouver Island: 45
Greater Vancouver: 430
South Okanagan: 16
Calgary Region: 209
Edmonton Region: 134
Lethbridge: 32
Central Alberta Region (Red Deer and surrounding areas): 43
Saskatoon Region: 93
Regina Region: 46
Manitoba: 62

*Numbers reflect builders who have taken membership with the Home Builders' Association in their region at the time of publishing. It is important to note that it is not legislated that a home builder become a member and therefore these numbers are not totally inclusive. Membership requirements vary among regions and numbers are subject to change.



Kensington

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Much more than a collection of homes, Saskatoon's newest neighbourhood will be a vibrant community to call home. With an inviting village square, picturesque ponds, parks and space for local shops, this is a neighbourhood where people can live, play and work. Designed to connect seamlessly to nearby communities, this urban village will enrich the lives of its new residents.

Kensington is located in the Northwest within the Blairmore sector. You'll always be able to call Kensington home, even when your housing requirements change. There will be condominiums, townhouses, and single-family homes located on cul-de-sacs and traditional lots with rear lanes. The Village Square will feature mixed-use development with main floor commercial and residential above for those desiring a more lively urban setting.



LOTS of information. JUST ASK!

For details on lot availability in Kensington or other land developments including Evergreen or Rosewood, contact the City of Saskatoon Land Branch at 306-975-3278, visit www.saskatoon.ca/go/kensington or contact your homebuilder.

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HOME Food: Elk Ridge Elegance

Shortly before my new baby was born, good fortune smiled upon my wife Jenny and me; Saskatoon HOME and Elk Ridge Resort invited us for a weekend of R&R to meet the new chef at the venerable resort. It was a relaxing weekend, full of down time interspersed with stuffing ourselves with some amazing cuisine. For those who have never been, Elk Ridge is a four-star, four-season resort, located in Northern

Saskatchewan in the heart of the boreal forest. There are a plethora of activities you can take in, including a 27-hole golf course, all set against a backdrop showcasing nature's majesty.

The new chef at Elk Ridge is Chef Luke Griffin, in his early 30s, born and bred in Toronto, but at Elk Ridge most recently by way of British Columbia. Don't let his reasonably young age fool you; Chef Griffin has a

formidable background, having worked his way up from being a dishwasher when he was a teen, to attending George Brown Culinary School in TO, and working at well known restaurants in Victoria and Nanaimo.

Chef Griffin has transplanted his wife and two children (with another baby on the way) to Northern Saskatchewan with this latest career choice. However, they are extremely

supportive, and it's a unique opportunity to leave his mark on the Canadian culinary world. Elk Ridge is keen to grow their reputation for exquisite food.

"It's a transition, for sure," Griffin tells me. "But it's beautiful here. And you're at home, as long as your family is together."

The Friday night my wife and I arrived at Elk Ridge, we start our weekend long eating



"Lamb Two Ways" as served at the Copper Ridge Dining Room located within Elk Ridge Resort in Northern Saskatchewan.

binge with an exclusive event, 'The Taste of Elk Ridge,' in the Copper Ridge Dining Room. This was an opportunity for Chef Griffin to showcase some of his fare for long-term Elk Ridge residents and guests, served in sort of a tapas style manner, so we could try all the different dishes. The menu included flank steak with fig jam, poutine samplers, pork belly three-ways, house-made lamb sliders, red pepper jelly glazed prawns, pulled pork on ciabatta, a selection of amazing cured meats and cheeses, and much more. It was quite a spread, food that was at once fancy, but also down-to-earth.

"I don't want people to be intimidated," says Chef Griffin of his approach.

When I met Chef Griffin for a morning coffee the next day, we spoke about his ideas for Elk Ridge, which include developing greenhouses and making things like chorizo and elk sausage in house. As any foodie can tell you, the less you rely on bringing in product (or using processed ingredients), and the more you use fresh, local ingredients, the better

your food is always going to be.

"Things should be made, not bought," explains Griffin. "Nine times out of ten, it's cheaper too. Plus, you get a sense of accomplishment, making it yourself."

For lunch on Saturday, Jenny and I enjoyed the view from the dining room, looking out onto the pond. I had the fish n' chips, which was hand cut walleye with a light, house made tempura batter and hand cut fries, with coleslaw and tartar sauce. It was crispy, but not heavy, giving it a 'classier' feel than you normally get from fish n' chips.

Jenny ordered the beef dip, which was slow roasted, shaved Saskatchewan raised beef, with mushrooms, caramelized onions and Swiss cheese on a baguette, with au jus on the side. It was pretty stellar; I usually find beef dips boring, to be honest, but I stole a bite of my wife's sandwich and loved it.

After an afternoon of lying around and reading, followed by a leisurely dip in the pool, it was time for the main event. The plan we'd been anticipating was for Chef Griffin to

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Craig Silliphant with Chef Luke Griffin.

prepare one of his house specialties for me, 'lamb two-ways.' I ordered a cocktail and chatted with my wife, while we reveled in the real reason why people come to a place like Elk Ridge, to a dining room like this.

"We don't just sell food and drink," Chef Griffin had told me. "We sell memories."


The lamb two-ways was placed before me, a sight

to behold. It consisted of, well, lamb done two ways. The first was a hoisin and rosemary brushed lamb chop, which was a perfect medium rare. The second was a slow braised leg of lamb ravioli, tender pieces of lamb inside a large homemade ravioli. On the side was a parsnip puree, and bursted cherry tomatoes. It was a delectable meal, adding to the wonderful dishes we'd

already enjoyed on our trip.

All in all, our visit to Elk Ridge was a much-welcomed extravagance, just before the birth of our son. There was the idyllic setting of the resort itself, but more so, the way in which we were treated like honoured guests, and the modern, yet rustic approach to the food. Making things instead of buying them, using fresh, local ingredients, and

paying attention to detail are the cornerstones of classic cooking. While Chef Griffin and his team aren't afraid to try new trends, the food at Elk Ridge is rooted in a certain straightforwardness that we honour here on the prairies.

"Food is simple," agrees Chef Griffin. "You should never overthink it" 

Craig Silliphant



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HOMEtown Reflections

THE WEIR

One year, 260,000 pounds of reinforcing steel, 12,000 cubic yards of concrete and 16,500 barrels of cement later, all man labour – and the weir was complete.

Construction, August, 1939.



JEFF O'BRIEN

Photo Courtesy: 1104-3-074, City of Saskatoon Archives

Construction, August, 1939.



Photo Courtesy: 1104-3-075, City of Saskatoon Archives

Conceived as a make-work project for unemployed men, built to help tame the raging waters of the South Saskatchewan River, the weir has been a gathering place for people in Saskatoon since construction began 84 years ago.

Like the Broadway Bridge, the weir, which dams the river just upstream of the CP Rail bridge at 33rd Street, was a child of the Dirty Thirties, when governments across the country looked for ways to cope with the problem of catastrophic unemployment and drought. In those days, unemployment was largely a municipal responsibility and by 1932, with one family in five in Saskatoon on relief, the

ability of the civic government to manage the crisis was quickly unraveling.

Paid work was the preferred way of providing relief.

available in the App Store) we talked about the city's biggest relief project, the Broadway Bridge. But unemployed men in Saskatoon also did

The hard part was getting the money and in 1938, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) announced that it would build – and pay for – Saskatoon's dam.

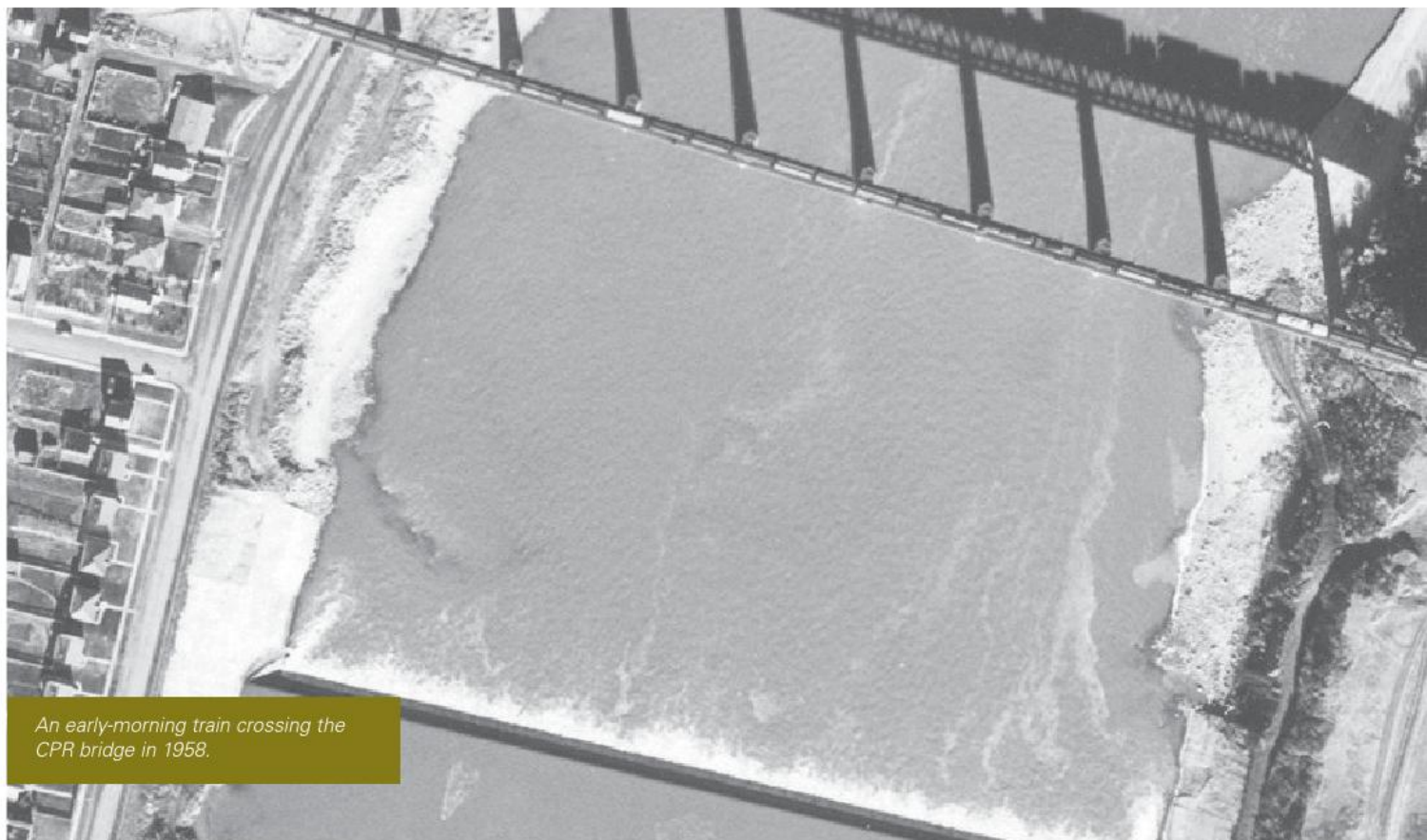
In Summer 2013 issue of Saskatoon HOME (back issues available online at www.saskatoon-home.ca/ read-online, or on our App

everything from shovelling snow to sweeping streets to building revetment walls along the riverbanks. Still, it wasn't enough.

Dam Relief

In 1936, the city proposed the building of a dam or weir as a possible relief work project. In those days, the South Saskatchewan River was a capricious beast. Water levels fluctuated with the seasons, with flows rising sharply during the April and June flood seasons then dropping to a trickle during the dry days of late summer. The weir would tame the river, creating a deep, slower-moving basin all the way past Yorath Island. This was to have several beneficial effects.

Recreational use of the river – problematic and even downright dangerous due to the swift current through



An early-morning train crossing the CPR bridge in 1958.

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Photo Courtesy: Acc_2010-012 Archives photo

much of the year – would be improved, with a resulting boost in related industries such as boat building. The Mayor spoke glowingly of fleets of boaters taking to the water, with “hundreds of craft” plying up and down the river, and the city becoming an important tourist destination as a result.

More realistically, perhaps, the weir would protect the city’s water supply, ensuring that the river would never drop low enough to uncover the water intakes at the power station and water treatment plant, as had almost happened in 1936. Higher river levels also meant less work would be needed to pump water up to the plants, with a projected savings of several thousand dollars annually.

There was also an aesthetic issue. In those days, Saskatoon


poured its sewage straight into the river. Low water often left the rocks along the uncovered shoreline festooned with the more distasteful detritus of society. By controlling the water levels, the weir would help keep the city’s eyesores covered.

Finally, the basin could act as a landing strip for floatplanes flying into the city. Today, this seems like an odd justification. Floatplanes do, on occasion, land on the river here, but they are a rare bird. But large-scale commercial aviation was the newest big thing in the 1930s, and the federal government was keen on developing coast-to-coast airways. Float planes were the only way in and out of Saskatchewan’s north country. If they could land on the river in Prince Albert, why not Saskatoon?

Privately, the Saskatchewan representative of the federal Civil Aviation Branch admitted that he thought it unlikely the city would ever see much floatplane traffic. Nevertheless, he said, the plan was feasible, and he promised to recommend it for licensing, if and when.

Most importantly, Saskatoon’s city engineer estimated the cost of the dam at \$335,000, of which \$200,000 would go to wages, with nearly all the work able to be done by unskilled labour. This made it ideal as a relief work project for the city’s unemployed.

Finding the Money

The hard part was getting the money. The city’s original plan was to split the cost three ways, much as had been done for the Broadway Bridge, only this time with the feds also 



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Another view of construction, this time showing the east bank and the buildings behind.

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Photo Courtesy: HST-056-L39, City of Saskatoon Archives

providing Saskatoon's share as a long-term loan. The request was turned down. There was a federal/provincial funding program, but apparently Saskatchewan had already spent its allocation. Undeterred, Saskatoon embarked on a round of lobbying, letter writing and public meetings, and in 1938, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) announced that it would build – and pay for – Saskatoon's dam. The hard part was getting the money.

This raised some eyebrows. The PFRA was part of the Department of Agriculture, and while its mandate included the building of water storage reservoirs, its purpose was to support agriculture and mitigate the ravages done by the long drought on prairie farmers. There were those in the farming community who wondered quite loudly why the PFRA was

suddenly spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to benefit city folks instead.

Paul Van Pul, in an excellent article in the 2012 issue of the *Saskatoon History Review*, suggests that perhaps the weir was sort of a dry run – a pilot project – for a much larger, future construction job – the Gardiner and Qu'Appelle Dams, which were built in the 1960s. But it is worth noting that the Minister of Agriculture in 1938 was James G. Gardiner, ex-Saskatchewan Premier and staunch advocate of Saskatoon's weir. The answer might simply be that Saskatoon's relentless politicking had paid off.

Finishing the Job

Construction started in March of 1939, and one year, 260,000 pounds of reinforcing steel, 12,000 cubic yards of concrete and 16,500 barrels



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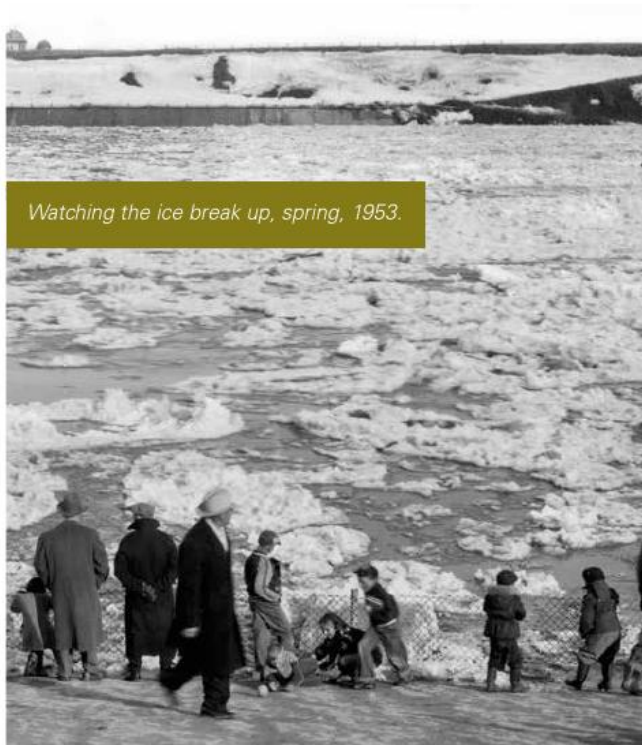
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Watching the ice break up, spring, 1953.

Photo Courtesy: Photo HST053-39, City of Saskatoon Archives

of cement later, the weir was complete. Ironically, by the time work began, the Depression was beginning to ease, and with Canada's entry into the Second World War later that year, much of the need for relief work evaporated.

The weir has been attracting people since the first shovel hit the ground. Construction photos invariably show spectators standing or sitting along the riverbank, watching the show. Anglers quickly discovered that it was a great place to fish. Young couples sat together on the aprons or along the banks on either side, people leaned along the fences or played on the apron itself. Since the 1970s, the weir has also been a favourite spot for pelicans, who wait patiently just downstream,

waiting for their next meal to come swimming by.

The area around the weir has changed remarkably since 1940. The Meewasin Trail now runs along the riverbank there, and a parking lot has been added. A significant facelift in 2001 replaced the rickety old stairs up to the top of the railway bridge and added a beautiful promenade, winding back from the parking lot to a lookout above the weir, as well as benches and other amenities. Still, in 2013 as in 1940, it's a beautiful place to lounge on a warm summer evening, watching the river drift by. 

Jeff O'Brien

(With information from Paul Van Pul.)

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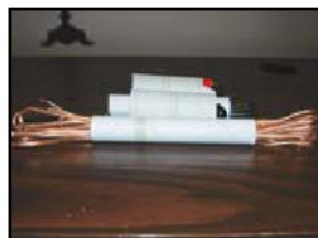
1. When you were born you did not own any towels. How did you accumulate so many that the only way to close your linen closet is to take a running start and hip check it with your full weight? Rolling your towels saves space and

makes selection easy.



2. Every piece of electronics you own comes with approximately 50 different cords. You fear throwing any away, because one day you know you might need that one special cord. Meanwhile you now have a box of random

cords and electronics that are threatening to gain self awareness and take over the world. Use paper towel rolls to keep cords separate and organized.



3. Has your son ever performed a flying dropkick off the couch at his brother

and knocked your coffee onto the carpet? You run to the kitchen look under the sink, but to your horror you see a plethora of random bottles? Why are there so many, and where is that emergency stain remover? A simple tension rod creates a much better way to be prepared. 🙌





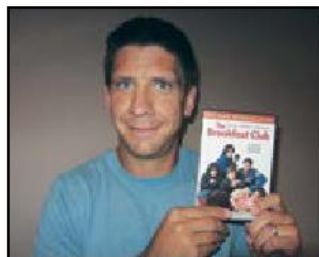
4. Although you do Yoga once a week, your body is never truly prepared for the simple task of plugging in a new piece of home office equipment. You contort yourself under the desk only to realize that you will have to unplug something since you are out of outlets. Which wire do you pull, you panic, your legs seize up, and you wish for a better way. Use simple bread bag tags to keep your cords labeled.



5. If you have any bread tabs left over from the last suggestion, keep them around. They will save you a great amount of money destined for the family swear jar when you are trying to find the edge of the scotch tape. These little tags are perfect for holding your place.



6. In a perfect world, you could buy wrapping paper at the dollar store and the clerk would wrap your present on the spot for you. Unfortunately they won't do that, and tend to look at you a little crazy if you ask. Keep your wrapping paper neat and tidy by repurposing a hanging shoe rack.



7. It's Friday night, the kids are sleeping and you are in the mood to pop in your favorite John Hughes DVD. As you approach the shelf you realize that you lent it to someone but can't remember who!? When you lend something out, take a quick picture of them with your phone.

8. There are a hundred thousand apps out there, but why is there no app to clean jam off the screen of an iPhone? Cut up an old lotion bottle and use it as a holder to keep your phone off the kitchen counter when it is plugged in (and away from the PB & J).



9. The world is becoming digital, but just like death and taxes, nothing can stop the mail. Use a small kitchen dish rack or napkin holder to keep your mail organized when it comes in.

10. As CD's become obsolete you realize you have an abundance of CD spindle containers laying around the house. Do NOT throw them away. As long as there are people of the earth there will be lunch. And as long as there is lunch, there will be bagels. Use these containers for your bagel in your lunch box. (H)



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